

Hafa Adai!

SIS student is awarded Questbridge scholarship to Wesleyan. PAGE 2  
DPL gives DLNR \$266K to maintain Mariana Resort. PAGE 3

\$1

# Saipan Tribune

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## DeLeon Guerrero: Never heard of anyone calling CCC regulations substandard

» **CCC chairman: Lack of funds stymied attendance at Manila Gaming Summit; believes lawmakers going to summit is good for Commonwealth**

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
[ferdie\\_delatorre@saipantribune.com](mailto:ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

Commonwealth Casino Commission board chair Edward C. DeLeon Guerrero said yesterday that he welcomes law-

makers sharing with them which part of the gaming/casino regulations are "substandard."

"I have never heard anyone call the CCC casino regulations substandard. Perhaps the policymaker who made that

reference has not seen our regulations," said DeLeon Guerrero during the CCC board's regular monthly meeting at the Springs Plaza Building in Gualo Rai.

In a news briefing Wednesday to report

See CCC on Page 4

## MSA to stop flying after April 1

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES  
[kimberly\\_esmores@saipantribune.com](mailto:kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

After weeks of uncertainty, Marianas Southern Airways is throwing in the towel and has officially announced that it will cease operations after April 1.

See MSA on Page 4

## Livelihoods hang in the balance

By LEIGH GASES  
[leigh\\_gases@saipantribune.com](mailto:leigh_gases@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

**SPECIAL REPORT**  
Editor's Note: This is part of a series of special reports that Saipan Tribune is featuring every Friday this month.  
See LIVELIHOODS on Page 4

## Water truck turns turtle along Route 36



By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES  
[kimberly\\_esmores@saipantribune.com](mailto:kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

An RNV Construction water truck was found on its back near Route 36 and inclement weather was being blamed for the accident. Fortunately, the driver escaped with his life with just a few cuts and

Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services personnel work to free a driver who was trapped under this RNV water truck that had turned turtle near Route 36.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

scrapes to show for it.

According to Department of Fire and Emergency Medi-

See TRUCK on Page 4

**'TOUCHBACK' COUNTDOWN**  
Days until  
'touchback rule'  
takes effect on  
Sept. 30, 2023:  
**183**



### CNMI ZERO WASTE WEEK

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, fifth from left, and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang, fifth from right, are joined by Cabinet officials, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency executives, Saipan Mayor Ramon B. Camacho, and Tinian Mayor Edwin P. Aldan for a commemorative photo after Palacios proclaimed the week of March 27, 2023, to April 2, 2023, as CNMI Zero Waste Week yesterday morning.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

## INSIDE



**BUSINESS**  
Pâte Puffs & Pastries is making special occasions on Saipan more special with its unique cakes.

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## ASIA

Taiwan's president is beginning a swing through the United States and Central America.

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## OFF THE WALL

An Australian company has made a meatball cultured meat from the extinct wooly mammoth.

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**ZERO WASTE**

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## SIS student is awarded Questbridge scholarship to Wesleyan



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan International School senior Tiana Cabrera poses in front of the SIS campus statue, showing that she has been awarded a full scholarship to attend Wesleyan University in Connecticut.

Tiana Cabrera, a senior at Saipan International School, was selected by the Questbridge Program to receive a full scholarship to attend Wesleyan University in Connecticut. The scholarship covers all expenses for Cabrera while at Wesleyan, totaling over \$400,000 for the four-year degree. Cabrera has been admitted to the department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.

"Tiana is amazing student who is always ready to participate in everything that she can," said Mili Saiki, SIS business manager and volleyball coach. "She continues our Questbridge tradition at SIS where we have had winners for the last four years."

Cabrera is the Student Council historian, the treasurer for NMI Model United

Nations, National Honors Society and Rotary Interact, a volleyball player and one of the leading distance runners in the Commonwealth. Cabrera is also one of the very few AP Capstone Diploma candidates in the region.

Last year, Cabrera was selected to represent the non-public schools as a Close-Up Scholar in the U.S. mainland. She has also represented the CNMI at the Oceania Championships in Australia in 2022, taking a bronze medal amongst a very talented field, and was a part of the NMI cross country team, securing a trophy at the Asia Pacific International Cross-Country Championships in 2019 before the pandemic hit.

"This is Tiana's last year at SIS and she will be missed," said SIS headmaster and NMA

coach Ron Snyder. "But before she goes, she will represent the school in the 1500-meter and 3000-meter at the All-Schools Track and Field Championships and then go on to the Oceania Cup, where she will represent the entire CNMI one more time before going off to college. I am very proud of her and very happy that she is in touch with the cross-country coach at Wesleyan to continue her excellence in running."

Wesleyan University is a top 20 university known for its distinctive scholar-teacher culture, creative programming, and commitment to interdisciplinary learning. Its graduates go on to lead and innovate in a wide variety of industries, including government, business, entertainment, and science.

Out of over 17,900 Questbridge applicants, 1,755 Finalists were recognized as Match Scholarship Recipients. This is the highest number of Match Scholarship Recipients to-date for QuestBridge.

"This record-breaking result further motivates us to help outstanding students obtain the top education that they deserve," said Ana Rowena Mallari, co-founder and CEO of QuestBridge. "These bright and motivated students have a determination to succeed that will help them thrive well beyond their college years, and we're excited to see where their dreams take them next."

All Finalists who ultimately matriculate to QuestBridge college partners join the QuestBridge Scholars Network, which provides ongoing support and resources through nationwide opportunities and campus communities. QuestBridge also provides enriching programs for their alumni, including the opportunity to apply for full-tuition scholarships to top business schools through the Graduate School Match: MBA. The QuestBridge Scholars Network and Alumni Association now include over 20,000 current college students and graduates worldwide.

QuestBridge is a national nonprofit that connects the nation's most exceptional, low-income youth with leading institutions of higher education and further life opportunities. By recruiting, developing, and motivating these students—beginning in high school through college to their early career—QuestBridge aims to help talented, low-income students attend the nation's best colleges and to support them to achieve success in their respective careers and communities. (PR)

## DPL gives DLNR \$266K to maintain Mariana Resort

Since the Department of Public Lands is facing a staff shortage, it is giving the Department of Public Lands and Natural Resources \$266,000 to maintain the abandoned Mariana Resort & Spa until the end of this fiscal year, according to acting DPL secretary Teresita A. Santos yesterday.

Speaking at the Senate Executive Appointments and Government Investigations Committee's confirmation hearing for her appointment to

serve as DPL secretary, Santos said they do not have enough surveyors and personnel who provide daily maintenance at Mariana Resort, Managaha Island, and other DPL properties.

To relieve the staff shortage, DPL executed a memorandum of agreement with DLNR a few months ago for DLNR to provide the necessary manpower to maintain the Marianas Resort. By that MOA, DPL has provided DLNR \$266,000 for that purpose.

Santos told *Saipan Tribune* that the \$266,000 is for the remaining months until the end of this fiscal year 2023, which is Sept. 30.

Mariana Resort was previously used as a COVID-19 quarantine site.

Several DPL officials, other government officials, and community members who came to testify before the committee supported Santos' nomination.

Santos said some of the

## 'Implementation of new financial management info system was rushed'

conduct full implementation process. However, she said, at the decision of the prior leadership at Finance, that implementation plan was shortened to 13 months.

"I can't see the reason or the decision behind that because I was not part of it. But I do know now that we see the impact, the implications of a rushed implementation," Norita said.

Babauta, who chairs the Senate Executive Appointments and Government Investigations Committee, raised questions about Munis during the committee's confirmation hearing last week on Norita's nomination to serve as Finance secretary.

This came about after Norita stated that Munis has the potential to streamline a lot of

their workload, but that they are still in the process of its implementation.

Babauta said the implementation of Munis has caused many complaints and that part of it is the lack of training for employees and the approving authorities on how to use the new system.

Norita said they definitely have a plan to do more extensive training for the new system.

Now that she is the Finance secretary in an acting capacity, Norita said her first priority for Munis is to pull back the resources that left the central government and the resources from the vendor. She said Tyler technologies, the developer of Munis, has to come back and conduct a reset of some

DPL divisions were affected by the transition team report and that DPL has been working closely with the division directors to address the identified issues and resolve them.

She said DPL is also working on improving or amending standard operating procedures, regulations, policies to ensure consistency and a quicker turnaround time with their clientele.

Santos said DPL has an open-door policy and open line of communication and appreciates the public contacting

the department for whatever issues, concerns they may have regarding public lands.

Santos is a former representative and senator, who has 40 years of experience both in the public and private sectors. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

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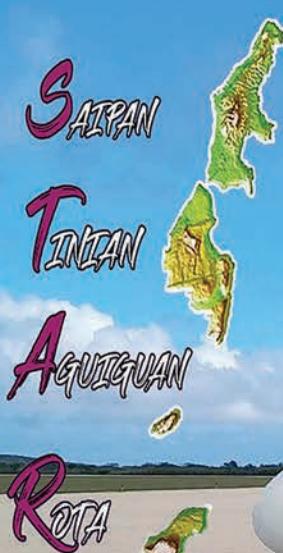
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## LIVELIHOODS

*From Page 1*

focusing on the “touchback” provision. The series will examine the rule’s impact on employers, affected workers, and the CNMI economy.

Even as only a handful of foreign workers were interviewed for this report, the consensus is clear: the livelihoods of those who rely solely on their jobs in the CNMI are in jeopardy once the touchback rule comes into effect in October this year.

There are hundreds if not thousands of foreign workers in the CNMI that are facing possible long periods of waiting and loss of income due to the touchback provision of the Northern Mariana Islands U.S. Workforce Act (Public Law 115-218), that requires employers to send their foreign workers back to their home countries as they wait for their work visas to be renewed.

The livelihoods of breadwinners

who consider the CNMI their second home will surely be impacted, but this will likely also lead to a loss of valuable skills for businesses and government operations that rely on a huge chunk of Commonwealth-Only Transitional Workers (CW-1). Many of the affected workers are fearful for themselves and their families, but many are also exploring other options, like going to other countries, or migrating to the U.S. mainland.

Rica Lozarito, a beautician at Mary’s Salon in Garapan, who arrived on Saipan in 2014, said that having to leave again will affect her income. “I’m the breadwinner of my family and if I stay in the Philippines for how many months without a job, it will be bad for me and them.”

The 47-year-old said that Saipan is already her second home. “I don’t want to leave, but I have to. My thoughts on this touchback rule is that it’s not good for people just trying to feed themselves and their families back home. They’ve been working here for many years and, at the end of the day, it’s like

pletely disagrees with the statement that they are enforcing “substandard” casino regulations and that he welcomes that policymaker to visit the CCC so he can share the regulations.

He said it took them many months of working with the Office of the Attorney General to look at quite a lot of gaming regulations such for the Nevada, New Jersey, Ohio, and Michigan.

He said they decided to use the Nevada model as a platform and that since then they made some modifications.

DeLeon Guerrero said he does not want to perpetuate the mistaken idea that the CCC’s regulations are similar to that of poker regulations.

“Poker is a completely different animal and so is e-gaming,” he pointed out.

The chairman said when he read the lawmaker’s statement in the news yesterday morning that they are enforcing “substandard” regulations, he was tempted to invite the lawmakers to show the CCC which part of the regulations they consider substandard.

DeLeon Guerrero said that what most people don’t understand is that, in addition to the regulations, the CCC also has to implement what is called minimum internal control standard—over 800 pages of standard operating procedures. In this case, he said, they use the Missouri model and that was also was approved by the CCC in an effort to regulate the casino industry.

of Life” and a cutter to cut and open the door so DFEMS personnel could take the driver out of the vehicle.

Once the driver was pulled from the vehicle, he was placed on a spine board and brought to the Commonwealth Health Center for further medical attention.

When asked about what had happened, the driver stated that he was driving downhill and, when he tried to avoid another truck, his vehicle slid to the left side of the road and caused it to flip onto its back.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that, in addition to dodging another vehicle, the victim complained about brake issues.

Meanwhile, in a statement from RNV operations manager Moi-

it’s nothing when they go back.”

She is optimistic though, that she can find work as a beautician elsewhere, as “beauticians are in demand all over the world,” she said. “And if I can’t come back here, maybe I’ll go back to Dubai again.”

Alex Kabiling, also a beautician at Perfect Image salon in Gualo Rai, has been in the CNMI for almost 20 years but is a CW-1 worker. He said he is worried about making enough money before going home. He sends money to his elderly father twice a month. About going back home, he said “I’m sad, but it’s going to happen, so what can I do? If there’s a chance, then please don’t let it happen so we can stay longer.”

He added, “We’re worried because we don’t know what’s going to happen. If we’ll stay long in the Philippines, of course we need to find work, but it’s much harder to find a job there. I’m used to Saipan already. This is my second home.”

Danilo Talenio, however, is actually ready to go back home. Talenio, a cook at Himawari Restaurant who arrived

The chairman said they are here to help and if the Legislature has any proposal, they also have their own proposal.

“I still believe in my heart that there is a room for this industry to assist the Commonwealth in not operating a separate industry but in complementing our tourism industry,” he said.

As to the Manila Gaming summit attended by seven lawmakers, DeLeon Guerrero said he favors education and any time policymakers have the opportunity to be trained, he believes it’s positive. He declined to comment, however, on the trip’s timing with the government’s lack of funds.

DeLeon Guerrero said he supports training, so that people can be aware of what is going on in the casino industry.

“We have no intention to be adversarial with our policymakers. That’s the decision they chose to take,” said the chairman, adding that they are standing by to assist in how they can further that education and knowledge.

DeLeon Guerrero said CCC was very much aware of the Manila summit, but they did not go because they don’t have funds and all of their employees have been terminated.

“But any time policymakers have an opportunity to expand their understanding of the industry I think it is a positive thing for the Commonwealth. I would leave to them to justify the lack of funds,” he said.

ses Tagle Jr., he said scattered rain showers caused slippery road conditions, leading to the accident.

“Initially, the scattered rain showers throughout yesterday caused slippery road conditions around the area of the curved road.

Our water truck driver managed to stay in control of the steering wheel to avoid the ravine but instead he ended up hitting the mountain area, which caused the water truck to tip over. The driver was eventually brought to the hospital by the ambulance but was released later that day. He just got a small cut on his cheek and some scratches on his left arm due to the accident. Other possible causes of the accident are still under investigation,” he said.

on Saipan on May 11, 2019, said that going back to Pangasinan in the Philippines will allow him to just focus on his fishing business in his hometown. He said he will, however, miss his coworkers and friends on Saipan.

Another foreign worker, who asked that he not be named, said this might actually be the motivation he needs to look for a job elsewhere, especially since he also have job offers in Australia and Canada.

Rommel Ramos, a cook at Himawari Restaurant since 2016 from Bulacan, Philippines, said in Tagalog that he is sad and worried about the touchback. “I’m not ready to leave as I don’t have enough savings,” he said. “I’m the breadwinner of my family as my wife is a housewife and my children are still in school, so it’s hard to be the only one working.”

He said the touchback rule will negatively impact his livelihood as one, he provides for his family, and two, he is not ready to leave and hopes that he will have more time before leaving for his hometown.

Michaela Panganiban, from Laguna, Philippines, who works in Information Technology for the L&T Group of Companies, is also the breadwinner of her family. She feels “sad and happy at the same time” about the touchback rule—sad that she’s leaving Saipan because “you have to save money for the fare, expenses, etc.,” and happy that she’s going to see her family again.

**A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)**

## CCC

*From Page 1*

on the ASEAN Gaming Summit in Manila, Rep. Marissa Renee Flores (Ind-Saipan) stated that the leadership of the CCC did not regulate well or adequately understand the consequences of implementing “substandard” regulations.

Flores, who was among the seven lawmakers who attended the three-day summit last week, said she believes that Saipan casino licensee, Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC, is a terrible company and that CCC has horrible leadership.

DeLeon Guerrero responded by saying that calling their regulations “substandard” just hurts the efforts of current and previous commissioners over the years to make sure that they regulate this casino industry properly.

DeLeon Guerrero said they do not desire to be adversarial with policymakers as the CCC was created by the Legislature through Public Law 18-56, to assist in enforcing the mandate of that law.

“We are the [casino] regulators,” said the chairman.

However, there seems to be some misunderstanding over what the CCC’s duties, responsibilities, and roles are, he added.

DeLeon Guerrero said he com-

funding out of [American Rescue Plan Act funds],” he said.

When asked if the administration could have come to some sort of compromise on its contract with MSA, Palacios said the administration can’t incentive one airline without incentivizing the other, referring to what will become the CNMI’s sole interisland airline, Star Marianas Air.

“If we were going to do something, then we would have to talk to Star Marianas also because the fact of the matter is that it is within the regulations that we have to give equitable treatment to all companies wanting to serve our islands. Star Marianas has been doing it for a long time without a lot of incentives, so if we’re going to do that, we have to incentivize all the other companies,” Palacios said.

In its letter, MSA stated that even after all that has happened, they appreciate the hard work that many individuals in local government agencies provided to help guide them and get their planes in the air.

“From the very beginning of the MSA project, we found a fantastic group of employees that we could count on day after day, who always gave 100% and handled difficult situations with class and a positive attitude (some even knew how to moonwalk!),” the letter states.

MSA also thanked its customers for flying MSA in the short time they were in operation.

“Most of all, we would like to thank our customers. As we worked to start and expand our services, your patience, encouragement, and support helped motivate us every day. Though our plans have been cut short due to an unexpected turn of events, we hope that all of you will know how much we appreciate the opportunity to have served the people of the CNMI and Guam, as you chose to fly on a first-class aircraft piloted by the most experienced group of commuter aviators in the Western Pacific,” said MSA.

“Thank you also to Southern Airways Express, who without their experience and commitment to MSA and the CNMI, we wouldn’t have been able to operate. We wish all of our customers and stakeholders whom we have served or worked with during the past year, continued access to reliable, safe and affordable travel between our islands,” the airline added.

## TRUCK

*From Page 1*

cal Services, male caller reported last Wednesday, at approximately 1:12pm that there was an overturned vehicle on the road near Old Man by the Sea along Route 36.

DFEMS stated in a news release that they responded to the location at 1:16am.

Upon arriving at the scene, firefighter Mariano A. Aguon, stated that the vehicle was seen flipped over and resting on its roof. The driver had to be extracted from the vehicle, using specialized tools.

The DFEMS statement said that its personnel had to use the “Jaws

of Life” and a cutter to cut and open the door so DFEMS personnel could take the driver out of the vehicle.

Once the driver was pulled from the vehicle, he was placed on a spine board and brought to the Commonwealth Health Center for further medical attention.

When asked about what had happened, the driver stated that he was driving downhill and, when he tried to avoid another truck, his vehicle slid to the left side of the road and caused it to flip onto its back.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that, in addition to dodging another vehicle, the victim complained about brake issues.

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ses Tagle Jr., he said scattered rain showers caused slippery road conditions, leading to the accident.

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“The decision is based on the unwillingness of Gov. Arnold Palacios to honor the contract signed by the previous administration,” said the letter.

When asked about this during yesterday’s kickoff of Zero Waste Week, Palacios said he stands by his decision to terminate the sole-source contract between the administration and MSA since the CNMI does not have the funds to uphold it.

“That’s unfortunate, to be honest. We wanted them to stay, but the unfortunate situation with the agreement. If that’s [what it takes] for them to stay, it’s unfortunate because we cannot afford to fork out that much



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E-mail:guangdong\_hardware@163.com

**BUSINESS HOURS:**  
Monday to Saturday  
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



# NMC's Nursing Program produces more NCLEX passers

Northern Marianas College nursing graduates Sharmaine Alarzar, Ahlex Caracut, and Yingying Hu recently joined the long list of students who have passed the challenging National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses, or NCLEX-RN.

The NCLEX-RN exam is the exam nursing graduates in the CNMI have to pass in order to be able to practice nursing. The exam tests the knowledge, skills, and abilities of nursing graduates in order to certify that they are equipped with the capability to apply entry level nursing practices correctly.

"I am extremely proud to congratulate Yingying, Ahlex, and Sharmaine on passing the NCLEX-RN and becoming registered nurses," NMC pres-



Alarzar



Hu



Caracut

ident Galvin Deleon Guerrero, Ed.D. said. "This is a tremendous accomplishment and a testament to their hard work and dedication to their studies at NMC."

NMC Nursing Department chair Rosa Aldan also congratulated the three on their achievements.

"I am thrilled to congratulate Yingying, Ahlex, and Sharmaine on successfully passing

the NCLEX-RN exam," Aldan said. "This is a significant achievement, and it reflects their exceptional knowledge and skills in the nursing profession. Their commitment to excellence and their dedication to their patients are traits that will serve them well throughout their careers."

Caracut, who graduated from the college's nursing program in 2022, said her big-

gest motivation for pursuing a nursing career was her mom.

"She's been hoping for me to become a nurse just like her and I hope to someday be as great as she was," Caracut said.

Caracut added that in addition to the support she received from her family and friends, she is most appreciative of her peers and instructors at the college.

"Learning difficult topics [with my classmates and instructors] through emails and study groups helped me understand materials more efficiently," Caracut said. "My advice for students planning to take the exam is to give yourself daily reminders of why you chose to pursue this career and use that as motivation to study."

Alarzar, Caracut's classmate, said that she always wanted to pursue a nursing career.

"At a young age I had always wanted to pursue nursing," Alarzar said. "I wanted to help people and nursing is one of those careers where I know I can make a change.

My passion to help others drove me to pursue this degree and still motivates me to further my education in nursing."

Alarzar also expressed gratitude for her instructors and the program for helping her prepare for the rigorous exam.

"My nursing instructors provided a strong foundation on each topic that could appear on the NCLEX exam," Alarzar said. "In addition, our weekly use of Kaplan practice questions helped me understand how NCLEX

questions are structured and how to study effectively for the exam."

Alarzar also advises others planning to take the exam not to just study, but also focus on their mental health.

"Be proud of your daily accomplishments," Alarzar said. "Be positive, be prepared and always believe you can do it!"

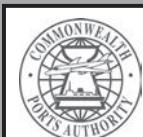
Like Caracut and Alarzar, Hu attributes her success with the exam to the college's nursing instructors and her classmates.

"NMC prepared me extremely well for the NCLEX exam," Hu said. "My instructors developed a comprehensive course plan that helped me gain a thorough understanding of the material and memorize key concepts. This foundation made it much easier for me to absorb additional knowledge and recall materials when I prepared for the NCLEX after graduation. They also provided me with valuable advice on how to prepare for the exam, including specific study strategies and test-taking tips."

Hu said she entered into the nursing field as it is a very rewarding career.

"I believe that being a nurse will give me a sense of happiness and satisfaction every day," Hu said. "I find it very rewarding when a patient is healthier because of my care and his or her family can be happily reunited without having to endure the sadness that comes with illness."

For more information about NMC's nursing program, email Aldan at rosa.aldan@marianas.edu or call 237-6744. (NMC)



## COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY(CPA)

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 • Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962  
Website: www.cnmiports.com



## AMENDED NOTICE TO BIDDERS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) is inviting qualified contractors to submit bid proposals and their qualifications for the PORT OF SAIPAN BERTH 103 REPAIRS, Project No. CPA-SS-001-17, for the island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Bidders are to submit one original and two copies of their bid which shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: PORT OF SAIPAN BERTH 103 REPAIRS, CPA-SS-001-17 and submitted no later than **2:00 P.M. (CHST), FRIDAY, APRIL 14, 2023**, to the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read. Bidders are requested to minimize their company's attendees to ensure social distancing.

The Project, in general, consists of Berth 103 Cavity Repairs including all associated work, all in accordance with the Plans and Specifications.

The Project is being financed by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for one hundred eighty (180) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

A DVD containing the Contract Documents including plans, specifications and the bid schedule, may be obtained at the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd floor of the Departure Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, upon the payment of **TWO HUNDRED U.S. DOLLARS (\$200.00)** for each set of plans and documents in electronic form (DVD). The payment is nonrefundable unless this notice to bidders is cancelled. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order, made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Bidders should notify CPA's point of contact mentioned below immediately if there are issues retrieving the files on the DVD and are to verify all information using the specification table of contents and the index of drawings.

A pre-bid conference will be held at CPA's Capt. George Fleming Memorial Building Conference Room at the Port of Saipan, located in Lower Base on the island of Saipan in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), at **10:00 A.M. (CHST), FRIDAY, MARCH 10, 2023**, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. Attendance is not mandatory. A site visit will follow the pre-bid conference. Bidders are requested to minimize their company's attendees to ensure social distancing.

Questions should be submitted in writing to the CPA Executive Director's Office, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or emailed to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, Executive Assistant/Project Manager at wprater@cnmiports.com at least ten (10) days prior to the bid opening date; with the exception of extension requests which have no deadline. Responses to all questions and requests for information will be provided to all bidders who purchased a DVD and attended the pre-bid conference.

Bidders shall use the bid schedule form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority on the DVD. Each bidder must also supply all supplemental information required in the specifications.

The contract period for construction of the project in its entirety shall be **FOUR HUNDRED TWENTY (420) calendar days**. Liquidated damages in the amount of **FIVE HUNDRED U.S. DOLLARS PER CALENDAR DAY (\$500.00)** shall be assessed the Contractor for each calendar day that the completion of the Project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without approved excuse.

The apparent low bidder will be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or mis-enter of the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by a U.S. Treasury listed or CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All mechanics and laborers for this procurement project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP 70-26 of the specifications. The bidder shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract and include associated costs in the bid proposal. The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 USC §§ 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders or offerors that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

By submitting a bid/proposal under this solicitation, the bidder or offeror certifies that neither it nor its principals are presently debarred or suspended by any Federal department or agency from participation in this transaction.

In addition to the above, all bidders shall comply with all local and Federal requirements under this procurement.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO  
Executive Director

Date: March 20, 2023

## COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.  
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950  
PHONE: (670) 237-6500/1 | FAX: (670) 234-5962  
WEBSITE: www.cnmiports.com

## REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES

### TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BACKUP POWER SYSTEM UPGRADE PROJECT NO. CPA-TA-002-23

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is a public corporation and autonomous agency of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). In accordance with its Procurement Rules and Regulations, CPA is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Architectural and Engineering (A/E) Design Services for the upgrade of the airport's backup power system at the Tinian International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, Project No. CPA-TA-002-23.

The project is being funded by CPA and is in accordance and compliance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations, Section 40-50-202, Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Administration Office, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package. Electronic copies may be made available upon written request to Ms. Wendi Prater, CPA's Executive Assistant/Project Manager, at wprater@cnmiports.com or Ms. Sheri Llagas at receptionist@cnmiports.com.

Questions regarding this request for qualification statements must be submitted to Ms. Prater or hand delivered to the CPA Administration Office by no later than 5:00 p.m. CHST, Friday, April 21, 2023.

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **5:00 p.m. CHST, FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 2023**. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330. The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria provided in the RFQ package.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO  
Executive Director

Date: March 20, 2023

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# JOETEN APRIL FOOLS WEEKEND SALE

SATURDAY &amp; SUNDAY, April 1 &amp; 2, 2023

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GUINNESS EXTRA STOUT BEER BTL 375ML 	ARIZONA GREEN TEA 23oz 	US CHOICE DLMONICO STK/RIBEYE 	CHICKEN LIVER CUP 15z 	SQUID WHOLE 3# BOX 	MILKFISH BELLY 350-400g 	NZ FROZEN SALMON FILLET S-ON B/O /LB 	U.S. BEEF OXTAILS SLICED 

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## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



### JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 23-054

Opening Date: March 20, 2023  
Closing Date: April 03, 2023

<b>POSITION TITLE:</b>	Trades Assistant
<b>DEPARTMENT:</b>	Wastewater Division
<b>LOCATION:</b>	Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA
<b>ANNUAL SALARY:</b>	\$16,742.00 to \$22,602.00 per annum, Non - Exempt
<b>CONTRACT:</b>	Not Contracted
<b>POSITION(S):</b>	One (1)

The incumbent will be under the overall supervision of the Drinking Water & Wastewater Division Manager or his/her designee. This class specification represents only the core areas of responsibilities; specific position assignments will vary depending on the needs of the Wastewater Division.

- The Trades Assistant assists with installations, repairs and general maintenance in assigned service area; operates motorized vehicles, equipment machinery, and hand and power tools.
- Performs routine and preventative maintenance on equipment, vehicles, systems and/or infrastructure; performs basic inspections; and conducts basic troubleshooting of issues.
- Responds to trouble calls as needed.
- Prepares job site for work including gathering and setting up materials and supplies, and setting work safety barriers for protection and to direct traffic flow away from work site.
- Gathers, cleans and returns equipment, materials and supplies used.
- Cleans and maintains work site after project or repair work is complete.
- Monitors equipment; takes readings and collects data; documents equipment readings; prepares and submits data and work reports.
- Performs inventory spot checks to ensure adequate materials and supplies are available for daily maintenance activities. Performing daily well and pump station facility maintenance, cleaning and monitoring;
- Assisting plumbing and chlorine maintenance crew;
- Utilizing digging equipment for locating and repairing leaks;
- Repairing and securing pressure reducer valves, main valves, service lines and laterals, and booster pumps;
- Assisting with meter installation and repair;
- Collecting water samples;
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

**Minimum Requirements:**

**Education:** High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education.

**Knowledge of:** Customer service principles; Basic mathematical concepts; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology.

**Skills in:** Providing customer service; Reading maps and drawings; Operating heavy and light equipment machinery, hand and power tools required of assigned area; Adhering to safety procedures and safe work practices; Prioritizing tasks and managing time for efficiency; Identifying issues and solving problems; Providing attention to detail; Taking equipment readings and recording data; Maintaining activity logs and reports; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

**Licensing/Certification:**

• Valid U.S. Driver's License with appropriate class;

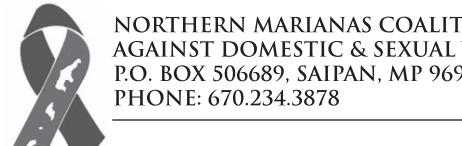
All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

**How to Apply:** You may submit your CUC Employment Application and/or resume at the Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, from Monday to Friday, 7:30am – 4:30pm. Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota can drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration office. Application and resume can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131

CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.



### VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT FOR COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

NMCADSV is looking for a motivated individual to join its team! We are looking for someone who is rooted in service and believes in the social justice values we uphold.

**Job Summary:** The Communications Manager will work with the Executive Director of NMCADSV and its Board to achieve its mission, goals, and objectives. The Communications Manager will participate in the daily operations of NMCADSV; plan, develop, and monitor all NMCADSV communications; and provide support for NMCADSV's programmatic activities.

**Minimum Qualifications:** An understanding of and agreement with NMCADSV's mission statement and philosophy regarding the elimination of domestic and sexual violence; exceptional written communication skills for diverse audiences and platforms; experience with community organizing and/or outreach; experience with non-profit social media management; experience with website development and management; ability to manage multiple projects and deadlines; and access to reliable transportation.

**Classification & Salary Range:** Full Time, Exempt. Some nights and weekends required. Travel may be required. \$18.00/hr to \$21.00/hr (based on experience and qualifications).

Copies of the full Position Description can be requested by email at Info@EndViolenceNMI.org or downloaded from the NMCADSV Facebook or Instagram account (@EndViolenceNMI). Hard copies are also available at the NMCADSV Office (directions below).

**To Apply:** A Resume and Cover Letter should be submitted on or before 5:00 p.m. on **Friday, April 14, 2023**. Provide a list (not copies) of any certifications and/or awards. Late and incomplete submissions will not be considered.

Submit resume and cover letter to info@endviolencenmi.org, deliver to NMCADSV's office (**between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.**) at the Marina Heights I Building (2nd Floor, Suite 206) or mail to NMCADSV, P.O. Box 506689, Saipan, MP 96950. (Mailed applications must be postmarked on or before the deadline.) Applicants who are invited for an interview will be asked to bring a copy of their Diploma or equivalent, Police Clearance (within last 30 days), valid ID, and a list of references.

The review of applications will begin immediately. **Scheduling of interviews for the first round of candidates will begin the week of May 1, 2023** progressing until a qualified applicant is hired.

NMCADSV is an equal opportunity employer.  
Individuals from under-served communities are encouraged to apply.

This project is 100% supported by federal grants, awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice, Grant Award #15JOVW-21-GG-00717-MUMU and the Administration for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services, Grant Award #2201MPSDVC. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this release are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Department of Justice or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

## Empowering women in the workplace

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce announced yesterday the successful completion of its recent Professional Development webinar on "How Company Leaders can Support Women in the Workplace."

The webinar, which took place on March 29, 2023, was attended by a variety of Chamber members and future-Chamber members and was hailed as a resounding success by both attendees and organizers.

The webinar was designed to provide company leaders with practical strategies and tools for supporting women in the workplace.

The webinar was led and facilitated by MPower Solutions co-founders Demi Rasmussen, MNM, CNP, and Mona Manglona, MSW, NCRI.

A new member to the Chamber, MPower Solutions is represented by two island women who are living state-side, but are still finding ways to give back to their region. "We commend and celebrate that," said SCC executive director Kim Camacho.

The webinar covered a wide range of topics, including the challenges faced by women in the workplace, strategies for creating a more inclusive and supportive work environment, and best practices for developing and promoting women leaders.

Webinar attendee John Jay Santos, who is the general manager of Triple J Five Star Wholesale and the 2022 SCC Business Person of the Year, thanked the Chamber and MPower Solutions for doing the presentation.

"It's about time that attention be brought to the professional development for women in our business community, whether it be for local businesses or women entrepreneurs. I was very happy to see this brought forward and hope that it works out in a very positive way for the women in our community."

Santos said that Triple J Saipan has been supporting women in the workplace for quite some time and shared that the sales manager for Triple J Truckload is a woman and cited other women leaders within the corporate office and other Triple J establishments. He said the company will continue to support women empowerment and growth.

Webinar attendee Sean Ficke, general manager of Triple J Motors, said that three of six sales leaders at Triple J Motors are women and shared Santos' sentiments.

Webinar attendee Julie Dueñas, who is an office manager at Bridge Capital, LLC, described the presentation as informative. "My key takeaway from the webinar was the tools and resources that the present-

ers shared on empowering women in the workplace. I will share these information and tools with the management team and look into current [Professional Development trainings] for women specifically."

This is the first of four Professional Development trainings under the Saipan Chamber of Commerce this year, Camacho said, and she looks forward to growing the participation rate with each one.

For more information on Saipan Chamber of Commerce Professional Development trainings, contact 670-234-7150 or send an email to contactus@saipanchamber.org. (PR)

## Garapan intersection will be partially closed

The intersection of Royal Palm Avenue and Palm Street in Garapan will be partially closed for 11 days in April to allow the contractor of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to replace safely an old ACP sewer main at Royal Palm Avenue and Ginger Avenue.

The road closure will be from April 5 to 15, 2023, from 7:30am to 4:30pm. The roads will be opened after 4:30pm.

This action will affect business owners and homeowners residing in the area and as well as motorists trying to access the area. (PR)

## NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION



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234-6866  
234-7670

Fax: (670) 234-9021

## PUBLIC NOTICE

03/01/2023

### Notice for Public Comment

Reprogramming of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds

Program Year/ IDIS No.:	Program:	Activity Name:	Subrecipient:	Approved Budget:	Proposed Reprogramming Amount:	Proposed Revised Project Budget:	Current IDIS Funded Amount:
IDIS# 733	CDBG	Purchase of Personal Protective Equipment for DFEMS	Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services	\$644,160.80	(\$9,316.80)	0	\$644,160.80
2016	CDBG	PY2016 Unobligated Funds Available to commit			(\$13,216.45)		
2018	CDBG	PY 2018 Unobligated Funds Available to Commit			(\$14,972.43)		
2019	CDBG	PY2019 Unobligated Funds Available to Commit			(\$24,914.28)		
2020	CDBG	PY2020 Unobligated Funds Available to Commit			(\$15,157.50)		
IDIS#715	CDBG	Kagman Community Park, Phase 2 Project		\$245,000.00	(\$66,690.00)	\$178,310.00	\$245,000.00
IDIS#763	CDBG	Renovation of Tinian Little League Baseball Field		\$330,000.00	(\$75,000.00)	\$255,000.00	\$330,000.00
IDIS#757	CDBG	Outdoor Fitness Court Facility (Rota)		\$115,166.40	(\$115,166.40)	0	\$115,166.40
		Total Reprogrammed to Activities:			(\$334,433.86)		
IDIS# 756	CDBG	Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan Multi-Purpose Facility	Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan	\$195,000.00	(\$45,520.00)	\$240,520.00	\$195,000.00
IDIS# 758	CDBG	Outdoor Fitness Court Facility (Tinian)	Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs	\$115,166.40	(\$94,833.60)	\$210,000.00	\$115,166.40
IDIS# 764	CDBG	Rehabilitation of the Sinapalo Youth Center	Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, Division of Youth Services	\$123,100.00	(\$36,900)	\$160,000.00	\$123,100.00
IDIS# 765	CDBG	Rehabilitation of the Sinapalo Basketball Court	Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, Division of Youth Services	\$20,000.00	(\$20,000.00)	\$40,000.00	\$20,000.00
NEW	CDBG	Demolition of Perilous Structures (Rota)	Municipality of Rota		(\$137,180.26)		
		Total Reprogrammed to Activities:			(\$334,433.86)		

Our agency through its Citizen Participation Plan (CPP) publishes a "Public Notice" on reprogramming funds over \$100,001.00. Therefore, comments from the general public should be submitted to NMHC Central Office located in Garapan, Saipan, and in Rota and Tinian Field Offices, on or before April 03, 2023 no later than 4:30 P.M. You may contact Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director or Ms. Tricia Tenorio, Planner @ (670)234-6866/9447



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 SP23R0023 WAS \$19,999 2018 Toyota Prius C <b>\$19,999*</b>	 SP23R0028 WAS \$19,999 2020 Toyota Corolla <b>\$19,999*</b>
 SP22T0234 WAS \$19,999 2020 Toyota Corolla <b>\$19,999*</b>	 SP23F0010 WAS \$19,999 2020 Toyota Corolla <b>\$19,999*</b>
 SP23R0029 WAS \$19,999 2021 Toyota Corolla <b>\$19,999*</b>	 SP23R0030 WAS \$19,999 2021 Toyota Corolla <b>\$19,999*</b>
 SP23R0002 WAS \$19,999 2021 Toyota Corolla <b>\$19,999*</b>	 SP22T0209 WAS \$21,999 2019 Toyota Camry <b>\$21,999*</b>
 SP22T0247 WAS \$22,999 2019 Toyota Camry <b>\$22,999*</b>	 SP23R0014 WAS \$24,999 2019 Toyota Camry <b>\$24,999*</b>
 SP22T0222 WAS \$21,599 2018 Toyota RAV4 AWD <b>\$21,599*</b>	 SP23R0005 WAS \$26,999 2021 Toyota RAV4 FWD <b>\$26,999*</b>
 SP23R0034 WAS \$28,999 2022 Toyota RAV4 FWD <b>\$28,999*</b>	 SP23P0016 WAS \$28,999 2019 Toyota Tacoma <b>\$28,999*</b>
 SP23R0007 WAS \$29,999 2021 Toyota Tacoma <b>\$29,999*</b>	 SP23R0008 WAS \$29,999 2021 Toyota Tacoma <b>\$29,999*</b>
 SP23R0037 WAS \$28,999 2022 Toyota RAV4 FWD <b>\$28,999*</b>	 SP22T0233 WAS \$31,999 2020 Toyota Highlander <b>\$31,999*</b>
 SP23T0038 WAS \$17,999 2019 Mazda CX-5 Sport <b>\$17,999*</b>	 SP23P0020 WAS \$21,999 2019 Honda Civic Sedan Sport <b>\$21,999*</b>

\*Terms and conditions apply. See dealer for details. Signature Care available only on Toyota, Lexus, Chevrolet or BMW used car purchases.



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# Opinion

## Saipan Tribune

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Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

**Jayvee L. Vallejera** EDITOR  
editor@saipantribune.com

**Mark Rabago** ASSOCIATE EDITOR  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

### EDITORIAL

#### Unrest sweeps across Israel, and Netanyahu has only himself to blame

Israelis embrace the ideal of democracy with the same fervor that Americans do. It's why, on Monday, the people of Israel effectively shut down their country's economy in a defiant, urgent statement against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's dangerous bid to overhaul—and in doing so weaken—the country's judicial system.

Protests that have persisted for weeks peaked on Monday, as tens of thousands of demonstrators filled streets of Israel's two largest cities, Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. "Save our startup nation" read a massive banner held aloft by legions of protesters jammed into a major Jerusalem roadway. Overnight, security forces resorted to water cannons to disperse demonstrators.

The nation's largest labor union called a general strike. Banks, government offices and many businesses closed, and hospitals barely functioned with skeleton crews. For hours, flights were halted at Ben Gurion International Airport, though later they resumed. Israeli embassies and consulates around the world also closed.

Israel's president, Isaac Herzog, pleaded with Netanyahu to heed the backlash from Israelis and suspend his government's push to weaken the nation's Supreme Court. "The entire nation is rapt with deep worry," Herzog said early Monday. "Wake up now!"

Ultimately, Netanyahu relented and announced Monday evening local time that his government would postpone legislation seeking an overhaul of the country's judiciary. His move, however, only delays the legislation—he's not abandoning it.

Regardless of what happens with the measure, Bibi's legacy will now include the ignominious stain of having plunged his nation into arguably one of the worst political crises in Israel's 74-year-old statehood. If the measure becomes law, the Israeli leader risks severely compromising one of the world's leading democracies, and even destabilizing a vital U.S. ally in the volatile Middle East.

It's a crisis that was wholly avoidable.

Last fall, Netanyahu made the disastrous mistake of succumbing to political expediency by forging an alliance with far-right Zionist leaders to maintain a grip on power. The coalition he assembled between his center-right Likud party and the far-right Jewish Power party and the Religious Zionism party enabled his victory in national elections.

The alliance wasn't just about votes. Netanyahu still faces a trial on charges of bribery, fraud and breach of trust. His new far-right allies are vehement critics of Israel's Supreme Court and have joined with Netanyahu in his push for a weakening of Israel's judiciary. An Israeli high court stripped of some of its authority could enable Netanyahu to sidestep justice and avoid jail.

If enacted, the ruling coalition's proposal would skew to Netanyahu's advantage membership on a committee that selects Supreme Court judges. Netanyahu also wants to dramatically curb the Supreme Court's authority to overturn laws that it rules as legally indefensible.

See UNREST on Next Page



## Suddenly the US is facing a problem we thought we'd solved: Rampant child labor

**S**uddenly lawmakers in several states are rushing to relax child labor laws to make it easier for teenagers to work longer hours, later hours and more dangerous jobs.

In Arkansas, Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders signed a law that scraps the requirement that 14- and 15-year-olds first obtain work papers before getting a job. Ohio's state Senate voted overwhelmingly to let 14- and 15-year-olds work until 9 p.m. on school days. In Minnesota, Republican lawmakers are pushing to let 16- and 17-year-olds work on construction sites, and in Iowa, to let 16- and 17-year-olds serve alcoholic beverages in bars.

It's hard to imagine a worse time to roll back restrictions on child labor, even as some lawmakers say these measures are needed because many businesses face difficulties finding enough workers. A recent New York Times report found children (some as young as 12) illegally working in factories, some supplying companies such as General Motors, Ford, Walmart, Target and Whole Foods.

In February, the U.S. Department of Labor slapped a \$1.5 million fine on Packers Sanitation Services, a cleaning contractor that had illegally hired more than 100 workers age 13 to 17 to clean 13 meat-processing plants in eight states. These teens frequently worked overnight shifts, with some suffering injuries from using dangerous cleaning agents. The Labor Department says the child labor problem is growing; it found more than 3½ times as many minors employed illegally last year as in 2015. The official data may represent only a tiny share of such cases because reporting and enforcement are difficult, and companies often do whatever it takes to hide these violations.

The push to ease child labor regulations comes at a terrible time because U.S. schoolchildren moved backward academically during the pandemic. Many studies have found that students who work 20 or more hours a week are more likely to drop out of school and have their grades decline, not to mention that they're often too exhausted to do schoolwork or stay awake in class.

Dropping out can lead to worse economic prospects. High school dropouts had median weekly earnings of just \$626 in 2021, 23% below the \$809 earned by high school graduates (without college). Workers with a bachelor's degree earn \$1,334 a week, more than double what high school dropouts earn.

All this speaks to the need to maintain child labor laws and step up enforcement. Unfortunately the move to ease such laws—an effort long backed by the libertarian Koch brothers and their network—sends a strong message to employers that hiring young teens is just fine. These legislative moves could further embolden employers to flout child labor regulations.

There are numerous obstacles to effective enforcement of

**By STEVEN GREENHOUSE**

Los Angeles Times

Steven Greenhouse, a senior fellow at the Century Foundation, is the author of *Beaten Down, Worked Up: The Past, Present, and Future of American Labor*.



child labor law: Many teenagers use false IDs, Labor Department inspectors in many states say their offices are badly understaffed, and there's a flood of unaccompanied immigrant teens crossing the border who are desperate to find jobs.

Sanders' office argues that Arkansas laws—even with the new relaxed rules—remain plenty strong to provide adequate protection to young workers. (The new law's backers said that getting work papers was too much of a hassle.) But some child welfare and labor advocates, perhaps remembering Lewis Hine's early-20th century photos of children toiling in mines and factories, worry that the nation is moving backward on child labor laws that have been in place for generations.

Connie Ryan, executive director of the Interfaith Alliance of Iowa, told lawmakers, "Do you remember the images of children in manufacturing and other dangerous work from the early 1900s? There is a reason our society said that it is inappropriate to work in those conditions."

Teenagers who do paid work for five, 10, 15 hours a week in safe jobs can have worthwhile experiences. They can learn responsibility, punctuality and other skills. But rolling back laws so that they can work six hours on school days or until 11 p.m. can have broader negative consequences. It's important that teens have enough time for school, sports and other activities and enough time with friends and families and for sleep.

The U.S. faces a labor shortage, but we should be wary of trying to plug that hole with 14- and 15-year-olds. (Some of the very people who are pushing to let younger teens work longer and later are the same people opposed to letting in more immigrants who could fill some of those job vacancies.)

Hiring more 14- through 17-year-olds and letting them work longer hours might help some businesses in the short term. But it could shift these teens' focus and energies away from school, making it more likely they will drop out and ultimately become lower-paid, less-productive workers. Such a decline in educational performance would not only be bad for these teenagers' futures, but could also hurt America's overall economy in the long run.

# A message from the CCLHS Program director

*Hafa adai yan tirow!*

I am very grateful and proud of the result of the UOG Chamorro Language Competition that took place recently in Guam. Our CNMI Public School System- Chamorro & Carolinian Language & Heritage Studies students from 16 schools traveled to Guam for an opportunity of a lifetime, especially the students who have never traveled out of CNMI. The learning from this experience will hopefully help our students understand the value of speaking their mother tongue and I am also hopeful that they will continue to appreciate, value, practice, and promote their indigenous languages both in Chamorro and Carolinian. This is one way that the CCLHS Program fosters and promotes the revitalization of our indigenous languages with our young children.

Now that we are free from the pandemic, our students and teachers are able to spend quality time practicing and preparing for this annual competition. This is where students compete in different categories and divisions. Students competed in Drawing-(K-12), Essay-(K-12), Oratorical-(9-12), Poetry Recita-

tion-(6-12), Proficiency-(HS), Storytelling-(K-5), Male/Female Singer-(MS/HS), *Kantan Chamorrita* Style of Singing-(9-12), Song with Dance (9-12), Dramatic Interpretation (9-12), Children's Choir (ES/MS), Chant-(9-12).

The performances of all the students are also a great reflection and alignment with what the teachers are teaching them in the classroom. The students felt confident standing in front of a large audience and presenting their pieces. Their experiences bring in the skills of public speaking, communication, and good sportsmanship.

Our CCLHS/Immersion teachers did an awesome job teaching and coaching their students in preparation for the event. I salute our parents and administrators for their utmost support. To the PSS Central Office, thank you for the financial assistance and support to the schools to make this learning experience for the participants memorable.

As a parent, I take pride in exposing our two children to this experience. We also engage them in the PSS Primary Grade Forensics Competition so they can be familiar with and appreciate

**By JONAS M. BARCINAS**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



*Jonas M. Barcinas, M.Ed., is the director of the CNMI Public School System's Chamorro & Carolinian Language & Heritage Studies program.*

our mother tongue. It is so rewarding to witness them reading and speaking our native Chamorro language with the local accent. Now they understand our native language and they continue to ask so many questions on how to say words or phrases from English to Chamorro. They listen to Chamorro songs or sing simple, old songs that I learned when I was in grade school on Rota. We hope that through their CCLHS classes, the UOG competition, PGFC, and community activities, they will keep advancing themselves to speak our indigenous language.

# What Netanyahu and Israelis learned from the Trump playbook

Early in 2019, as Israel was heading into a divisive parliamentary election, a massive campaign poster along a Tel Aviv freeway showed Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu shaking hands with President Donald Trump. Now, five such elections and one near-civil war later, that same highway has been repeatedly blocked by protesters against Netanyahu's plan to place the country's Supreme Court under his political control.

Nothing could be more grimly appropriate to the crisis of democracy in Israel than the notion of Trump's image looming over it. For however much the turmoil in Israel arises from some distinctively Israeli causes, such as the nation's continuing lack of a constitution, Netanyahu and his far-right coalition have made the Trump playbook their political Torah.

Netanyahu portrayed his bromance with Trump as the essential factor in the president's many unreciprocated concessions to Israel—moving the American Embassy to Jerusalem; recognizing Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights; pulling the United States out of the Iran nuclear arms deal; ignoring and undermining the Palestinian Authority.

And Netanyahu was hardly taking a risk in conflating himself with Trump. A Pew Research Center poll in early 2020 found that 71% of Israelis approved of Trump. In other words, Israeli support for Trump exceeded by roughly 20 points the one-half share of Israeli voters who backed Netanyahu's various right-wing coalitions in the last five Knesset elections.

Perhaps many of those centrist and center-right Israelis genuinely believed that accepting the benefits of Trump's largesse was not tantamount to endorsing his brand of demagogic, antidemocratic rule. Presumably, they were like the untold millions of Trump voters in America who said they wished he wouldn't tweet so much but loved his border wall.

The problem in both America and Israel is that, when it comes to Trump, you cannot separate whatever purports to be a policy agenda from the relentless and deliberate effort to erode democracy itself. As Rick Wilson of the Lincoln Project titled a book that was released about the same time as the Tel Aviv billboard went up, "Everything Trump Touches Dies."

## UNREST

From Page 10

It's easy to understand why Israelis who so fiercely entwine democracy with national identity would revolt against such a measure. The Netanyahu government's attack on the judiciary directly threatens Israel's principle of checks and balances. A weakened high court dominated by Netanyahu loyalists becomes a mere lever for the ruling right-wing coalition, rather than a protector of citizens' rights—particularly the rights of non-Jewish minorities.

And it becomes a get-out-of-jail card for Netanyahu.

Netanyahu should have been all too aware that his government's anti-democratic agenda would lead to national turmoil. He had been warned repeatedly.

Speaking in Tel Aviv in January, Herzog cautioned: "The absence of dialogue is tearing us apart from within, and I'm telling you loud and clear: This powder keg is about to explode. This is an emergency." That same month, Secretary of State Antony Blinken met with Netanyahu and later talked about the need to preserve "core democratic principles and institutions," a remark

Being an American Jew and a liberal Zionist, I have often heard from Israelis that people like me just don't understand the dangerous neighborhood in which the Jewish state exists. And that's true. I don't go through every day weighing the risks of a Hamas suicide bomber, an Iranian nuclear weapon, a wave of Hezbollah missiles.

But when I was decrying Trump as a candidate and president—an opinion shared by the overwhelming majority of American Jews who voted against him in both 2016 and 2020—I was saying that America is also a dangerous neighborhood with some cautionary lessons to teach. Trump did not come from nowhere. He traveled the hateful path trod by Andrew Jackson, Jefferson Davis, Charles Coughlin, Gerald L.K. Smith and George Wallace. It's revealing that the most toxic figure in Israeli political history until Netanyahu was Rabbi Meir Kahane, born and bred in America, where his anti-Black racism anticipated the anti-Arab version he espoused in Israel.

A previous version of Israel saw fit to outlaw Kahane's political party. Now that party's descendants form integral members of Netanyahu's narrow governing majority. If that scenario sounds more than a little like America in the Trump years, it should. The parallels are instructive and ominous.

Trump narrowly won election in a backlash against the multiracial democracy embodied by his predecessor, Barack Obama; Netanyahu assembled his current majority in backlash against a previous coalition that dared to include an Israeli Arab party along with a wide spectrum of Jewish Israeli ones.

Trump welcomed into his movement the type of racists, antisemites and neo-Nazis previously considered radioactive to any presidency; Netanyahu not only included in his coalition such settler extremists as Itamar Ben-Gvir and Bezalel Smotrich, but bought their participation with ministerial appointments.

(Ben-Gvir's consent was required on Monday for Netanyahu to suspend parliamentary action of the judicial takeover, and Ben-Gvir's reward was reportedly the prime minister's promise to create a new militia under the radical

clearly aimed at the Israeli prime minister's planned judiciary overhaul.

On Saturday, Netanyahu's defense minister, Yoav Gallant, criticized the overhaul and urged his prime minister to abandon it. Netanyahu responded by firing Gallant, a move that triggered massive protests across Israel Sunday night. Many of those demonstrating were Israel's military reservists incensed by Gallant's firing.

President Joe Biden has a long-standing relationship with Netanyahu, and Americans and Israelis alike can expect him to work to persuade the prime minister to drop the overhaul plan and become a defender of checks and balances, rather than a foe.

Ultimately, however, Netanyahu must decide what's more important—self-preservation or the future of his nation and its democracy. A postponement of the judicial overhaul is far from sufficient. Outright abandonment of the plan clearly is the best option.

The choice should be easy. But even after the tidal wave of civil unrest his nation experienced Monday, there's no sign at all that he'll make the right choice.

**By SAMUEL G. FREEDMAN**

Los Angeles Times



*Samuel G. Freedman is the author of books including *Jew vs. Jew: The Struggle for the Soul of American Jewry*.*

politician's control.)

Trump interpreted his dubious electoral mandate, which included losing the popular vote to Hillary Clinton by several million votes, as license to populate the federal courts and the Supreme Court itself with right-wing judges and to attempt to control the American military as his personal army; Netanyahu, having scraped together a thin majority in the Knesset, set out to seize control of Israel's Supreme Court.

This stunt is happening, of course, at the same time when the prime minister faces charges of bribery and fraud with the potential of being barred from office. In one more parallel, Trump's first indictment may be just days away. Depicting themselves as tribunes of the real people, the former president and prime minister alike blame their troubles on the "elite."

When Netanyahu postponed the next stage of his judicial overhaul on Monday, he may have spared Israel its own Jan. 6 insurrection, at least for the moment. And in the streets of Israel, carrying the flag of genuine patriotism during all of their marches, his multitude of opponents may have shown both their country and the United States the example of standing up to MAGA in any language.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Give the little league its due

NMI little league baseball deserves more than just a field in the back. Chartered since 1972, the program has a rich, treasured history that has multiple Asia-Pacific championships and more than a thousand graduates.

With the awarding of a major grant for the revitalization of the Oleai Sports Complex, the CNMI finally has a chance to do right for our little league. I urge Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang to support the construction of a little league stadium, using the same dimensions as the World Series field in Williamsport, PA, with direct access for vehicles and ample parking—a ballpark for our youth to enjoy and guests to admire. We could have the nicest little league facility in Asia-Pacific if we want it. This is our opportunity, maybe the only one.

Now that the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium has been beautifully restored, track and field seating expanded and the Palacios Field upgraded (11 teams this season!), it's time to embrace a vision for what the community really wants in a sports park and knowing the proclivities of people here, that includes food, beverages and *pala palas*.

A snow cone at a little league ballpark with the family—priceless!

**Bob Coldeon**

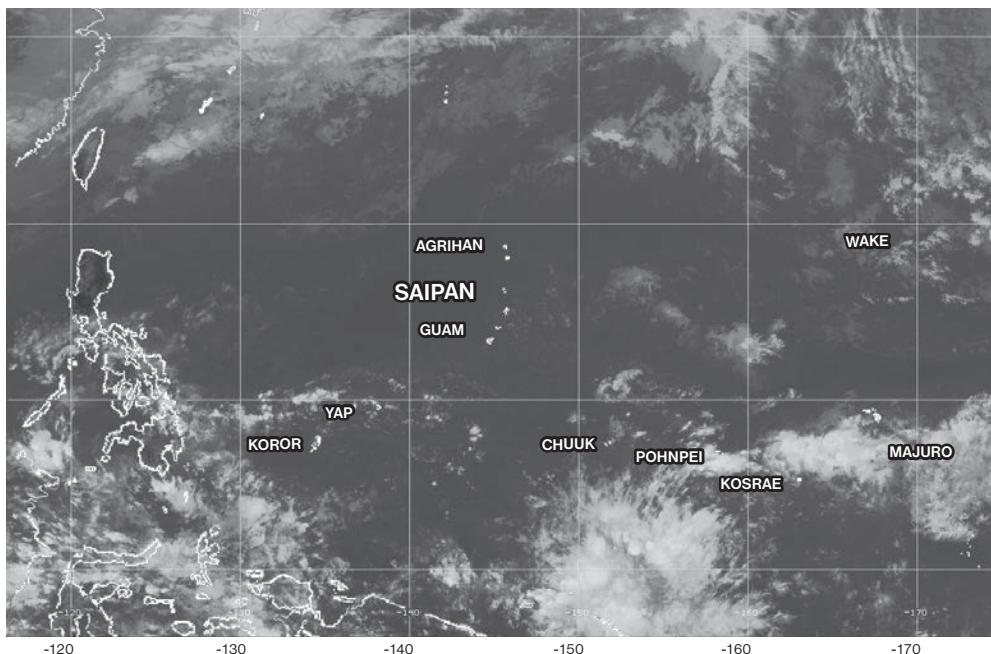
Chalan Galalide, Saipan

# The Weather

## 5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Isolated showers. Mostly sunny	Isolated showers. Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny	A chance of showers. Partly sunny	A chance of showers. Partly sunny
85°	77°	85°	77°	85°
77°	85°	77°	85°	77°

## YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



**PICTURE TIME: 8:48 AM, THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 2023**

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Guam Doppler weather radar shows isolated showers moving through the Marianas Waters. The buoys reveal combined seas of 5 to 7 feet, which are composed mainly of trade-wind swell from the east-northeast.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

MICRONESIA		
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	85° / 77°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	85° / 78°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	85° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	87° / 78°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	85° / 80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:13 AM	6:29 PM
Saturday	6:12 AM	6:29 PM
Sunday	6:12 AM	6:29 PM
Monday	6:11 AM	6:29 PM
Tuesday	6:10 AM	6:29 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	2:15 AM	1:40 PM
Saturday	-	3:00 AM	2:31 PM
Sunday	-	3:40 AM	3:21 PM
Monday	-	4:18 AM	4:10 PM
Tuesday	-	4:54 AM	4:58 PM

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## AROUND THE GLOBE

AROUND THE GLOBE		
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	69° / 63°
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	76° / 49°
Hong Kong	Cloudy	73° / 69°
Honolulu	Showers	81° / 72°
London	Rain	53° / 47°
Los Angeles	Showers	59° / 46°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	96° / 76°
Melbourne	Showers	66° / 52°
Miami	Showers	78° / 73°
New York	Sunny	48° / 37°
Osaka	Cloudy	68° / 49°
Paris	Showers/Wind	59° / 50°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	69° / 52°
Rome	Cloudy	66° / 53°
Salem	Sunny	75° / 53°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	55° / 45°
Seoul	Sunny	74° / 42°
Tokyo	Cloudy	68° / 52°
Washington, DC	Sunny	55° / 41°

## TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET

5:19 AM	High Tide	1.57
10:45 AM	Low Tide	1.19
2:39 PM	High Tide	1.38
10:22 PM	Low Tide	0.18

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 1, 2023

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
<b>SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)</b>				<b>GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN</b>			
UA117 9:50AM 10:35AM Daily				UA174 8:00AM 8:46AM Daily			
<b>SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)</b>				<b>NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN</b>			
UA824 7:05AM 9:45AM 1, 3, 5				UA825 9:25PM 2:00AM+1 2, 4, 7			
<b>GUAM-MANILA (MNL)</b>				<b>MANILA (MNL)-GUAM</b>			
PR 111 5:30AM 7:25AM Daily				PR110 10:05PM 3:55AM+1 Daily			
UA193 7:55PM 11:50PM 2, 5 via Palau				UA184 10:55PM 4:45AM+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7			
UA183 8:00PM 9:50PM Daily				UA192 10:40PM 6:30AM+1 2, 5 via Palau			
UA189 12:40AM 6:30AM 3, 6				UA189/174 12:40AM 8:46AM+1 3, 6 via Guam			
<b>SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)</b>				<b>MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN</b>			
UA117/183 9:50AM 9:50PM Daily via Guam				UA189/174 12:40AM 8:46AM+1 3, 6 via Guam			
UA117/193 9:50AM 11:50PM 2, 5 via Guam, Palau				UA184/174 10:55PM 8:46AM+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam			
UA192/174 10:40PM 8:46AM+1 2, 5 via Palau, Guam				UA192/174 10:40PM 8:46AM+1 2, 5 via Palau, Guam			
<b>SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)</b>				<b>INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN</b>			
TW308 3:15AM 6:55AM 1, 4, 5, 7				7C3406 10:10AM 3:30PM Daily			
TW9308 3:50AM 7:20AM 4, 7				TW307 8:45PM 2:15AM+1 3, 4, 6, 7			
7C3405 4:35PM 8:25PM Daily				TW9307 9:20PM 2:50AM+1 3, 6			

## LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, TWay Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

## MARIANAS SOUTHERN AIRWAYS

### INITIAL DAILY FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 6, 2023

SAIPAN TO TINIAN			TINIAN TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
11:20 A.M.	11:38 A.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	12:00 P.M.	12:18 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
3:40 P.M.	3:58 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	4:20 P.M.	4:38 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
9:40 A.M.	9:58 A.M.	6, 7	10:20 A.M.	10:38 A.M.	6, 7
SAIPAN TO ROTA			ROTA TO SAIPAN		

# MTEC, MVA bring their message to Koblerville Elementary

The Marianas Tourism Education Council and Marianas Visitors Authority took their message about the importance of tourism to Koblerville Elementary School last Tuesday.

The outreach team engaged fourth graders with information and activities highlighting the Marianas' primary eco-

nomic driver, how it impacts their lives, and ways students can support tourism even at a young age.

The outreach was conducted by MTEC acting chairwoman Vicky Benavente, MTEC board member Glenn Policare (Kanoa Resort Saipan), and MVA Community Projects

specialist Jack Aranda.

"The energy and enthusiasm of the students at Koblerville Elementary School are positive signals that tourism is still on everyone's mind," said Policare. "The kids were responsive to questions, very attentive and blown away with some of the imagery shared of

our islands. The Marianas are a beautiful part of the world. I hope our visitors get to meet some of our students because they are ready to welcome them to our island home!"

Aranda shared about the work of the various divisions of the MVA, including upcoming community projects

such as May Tourism Month and the 24th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden scheduled for every Saturday in June at Garapan Fishing Base.

MTEC and the MVA are entering their final month of visiting all public schools

this school year with the message, "Tourism is Everybody's Business." The MTEC presentation includes information on the number visitor arrivals, source markets, travel motivations, the benefits of tourism, careers in travel and tourism, and ideas on how students can engage with tourism. (MTEC)

## Sexual Assault Awareness Month to kick off with proclamation signing on Monday

The Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence is inviting the community to take part in the proclamation signing ceremony on Monday, April 3, 2023, at 10am to declare April 2023 as Sexual Assault Awareness

Month. The ceremony will be held at the Hibiscus Hall of the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan in Garapan.

The ceremony will also be live streamed via NMCADSV's Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/End-](http://www.facebook.com/EndViolenceNMI)

ViolenceNMI.

The CNMI has been recognizing April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month with annual campaigns that aim to raise public awareness on the issue and empower community members to engage in prevention

throughout the year.

"We have hosted this significant event for the last 15 years," said NMCADSV associate director

Kiki I. Benjamin. "This

ceremony is an important part of Sexual Assault Awareness Month because it highlights the prevalence of sexual assault and it give victims and

survivors a platform to share their story. We hope our community will listen and support all survivors."

### ON THE NET

[www.facebook.com/  
EndViolenceNMI](http://www.facebook.com/EndViolenceNMI)

She also invites community members to take part in the SAAM events and activities scheduled throughout April, including the S.A.F.E. (Safe, Aware, Free, Empower) Jam-

boree on Saturday, April 15, 2023 from 11am to 4pm at the Capitol Hill Softball Field; and the Wave, Walk & Roll Against Sexual Violence on Wednesday, April 26, 2023, at the Kagman Community Center. Registration starts at 4:30pm, with the waving and walk and roll following shortly. SAAM T-shirts will be given out to participants while supplies last. (PR)

**DEATH & FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT**

**IN LOVING MEMORY OF**

**†Frederick  
(Katsutoshi) Koyama  
Pangelinan**



**In his new life, he now joins his:**

<b>Parents</b>	:	†Henry Sablan and †Monica (Hideko) Koyama Pangelinan
<b>Parents In law</b>	:	†Francisco Pangelinan and †Dolores Cruz Deleon
<b>Son</b>	:	†Kern Francis Deleon Pangelinan
<b>Brothers &amp; Sisters</b>	:	†Damiana Koyama Pangelinan †Joseph Koyama Pangelinan
<b>In laws</b>	:	†Edward Francis & Asencion B. Deleon †Tommy Flores †Regina and Aniceto Galveo †Angelo Sablan †Tomas Rueb †Edward Mendiola

**His loving and wonderful memories will forever live in the hearts of his:**

<b>Wife</b>	:	Leonora Deleon Pangelinan
<b>Children</b>	:	Frederick A. & Margaret Bertha Pangelinan & Family Mark D. & Vilma Pangelinan & Family Duanne P. Pangelinan & Laura Ann T. Deleon Guerrero & Family Christopher D. Pangelinan Monica D. Pangelinan Christina P. & Joey John San Nicolas Taitano & Family

**Siblings:**

Maria Aguon Pangelinan & Family	George K. & Evelyn M. Pangelinan & Family
Ernesta Pangelinan Rueb & Family	Cynthia P. Pangelinan & Family
Mariano K. Pangelinan & Family	Glenn M. Pangelinan & Family
Benny K. & Rose Marie Duenas Pangelinan & Family	James M. Pangelinan & Family
Vivian P. & Joaquin B. Cruz & Family	Michelle M. Pangelinan & Family
Alfred K. & Cecilia P. Pangelinan & Family	Evonne M. Pangelinan & Family
Paul K. & Maria C. Pangelinan & Family	Peter Pangelinan & Family
Henry K. Jr. & Rebecca F. Pangelinan & Family	Evelyn P. Pangelinan & Family
Norman K. & Cynthia C. Pangelinan & Family	Nida Pangelinan & Family

**In-Laws:**

Ruth Deleon Flores & Family	George K. & Evelyn M. Pangelinan & Family
Diana Deleon Sablan & Family	Cynthia P. Pangelinan & Family
Marcia Deleon Mendiola & Family	Glenn M. Pangelinan & Family
Marie Antoinette Deleon & Tony Mendiola & family	James M. Pangelinan & Family
Edna Deleon & Herbert C. Cruz & Family	Michelle M. Pangelinan & Family
Roland C. & Jane M. Deleon & Family	Evonne M. Pangelinan & Family
Connielyn Manglona & David Camacho & Family	Peter Pangelinan & Family
Kartrinalynn Manglona and Carlos Henriquez & Family	Evelyn P. Pangelinan & Family

**Funeral and Memorial Services will be held on Wednesday, April 05, 2023, at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Cathedral. Responso, viewing, and last respects will begin at 8:00 a.m. and the Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. followed by interment services at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.**

**Si Yu'us Ma'ase for all your thoughts and prayers**

**Leonora Deleon Pangelinan & Family**

**†Phillip D. David**

March 23, 1949 – March 28, 2023



†Phillip was a native of the Pingelap Atoll of Pohnpei. Later, he moved to the Marianas where he became a husband, father, grandfather, and friend.

A gentle soul with a heart of gold. †Phillip was a man of a few words, compassionate, and humble. He showed kindness to all and was always willing to help those in need. His sense of humor never failed to make everyone laugh, especially his grandchildren. His ability to support, forgive, and love will be forever ingrained in all who knew him.

†Phillip David, was called to his eternal rest on March 28, 2023, surrounded by his wife, children, grandchildren, and loved ones.

His memories are cherished and remembered by his beloved wife, Evelyn Fleming David, and their children:

**Linda F. David & Gonzalo V. Pangelinan:** Kristen Phillicia, Leona Yvonne & Suzanne (Andrew Ezekiel, Jaxson Malachi), Maia Magdalena, and Christopher Phillip

**George F. David & Wilma Hofsneider-David:** John Anthony & Naomi (Nia Jae, Tori Jean, Tyler Joseph), Nathaniel Raymond, Nina Nicole, and Caitlyn Jade

**Eric F. David & Tania Peters David:** Anthony John & Kyanna, Phillip Frederick, Anesta Jermae, Pheona Georgette, and Eric Phillip II

**Juanette F. David-Atalig & JJ Atalig:** Gregory Thomas, Jesse Justin, and Joshua Phillip

**Frederick L. Sato & Lareina C. Camacho:** Reef Jeremiah and Mayumi Miphel

**Jemima F. Nogis:** Mariko Jesstine, Jesstin Jay, Jaena, and Jessiah James

He will also be missed by his siblings, in-laws, nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends.

Daily masses of intention are offered at Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 6:00 am and at Saint Jude Parish at 6:00 pm.

†Phillip will be with us for the last time at 8:00 am on Tuesday, April 4, 2023, at Kristo Rai Parish, followed by Responso Service and Public Visitation. Mass of Christian Burial will be at 10:30 am.

**Thank you for all your sincere thoughts and prayers.**

**Evelyn Fleming David, Children, & Family**

## Keeping the indigenous languages in the Marianas alive

The following is the complete list of Public School student participants and their teachers/coaches who participated in the *Inacharigen Fino' CHamoru* 2023 competition at the University of Guam on March 13 and 14, 2023.

**Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School**  
Principal: Raena Camacho  
Coaches: Joann M. Torres, Jennie P. Magofña, K'nillis Tuhuweitae  
1. Angel F. Camacho - Drawing, 3rd Place  
2. Caysa Marchadesch - Drawing, 1st Place  
3. Jovie Sablan - Storytelling, 2nd Place  
4. Rayiana R. Kaipat - Storytelling, Alternate

**Kagman Elementary School**  
Principal: Ignacia Demapan,  
Coaches: Mariama Leemarvin, Cynthia Cepeda, Lareyna Camacho, Sirena Santos, Mike Muna, Janerline Saimon

### Children's Choir

1. Vinase Agulto
2. Ava Ariola
3. Jonah Babauta
4. Ethaniel Cabrera
5. Dixie Camacho
6. Serenity Carino
7. Abrianna Cruz
8. Kylie Fleming
9. Hailey Mafnas
10. Azaleah Magofna
11. Kaheah Manglona
12. Radtreshon Obispo
13. Aiden Pangelinan

14. Aiden Rabago
15. Emmaraech San Nicolas
16. Gianna Tudela
17. Tuid Yamada
18. Vincent Rios - Drawing

### **Koblerville Elementary School**

- Principal: Naomi M. Nishimura  
Coaches: Alma Villagomez & Greg Blas  
Chaperones: Ruslyn Carmen B. Saito & Ignacia O. Torres  
1. Dovianne Victoria Tudela - Storytelling, 2nd Place

### Children's Choir, 3rd Place

1. Jentyllyn Apas
2. Joshua Apas
3. Aria Eugenia Basa
4. Nathyn Jhae Blas
5. Lindsay D. Bocago

6. Victoria Ma'ina Castro
7. Inessa Maria Diaz
8. BM Fred
9. Movansa Heben
10. Aven D'Jon Iglesias
11. Johanan Eleonai Imperial
12. Kianna Tina Kikku
13. Kayleen Lippwe
14. Celine Danielle Mondido
15. Lovan Jude Ngesbekei
16. Chace Logan Reyes
17. Bethany Talei T. Rios
18. Likia Malia Terlaje
19. Ariah Jade Villagomez
20. Ayden Jacob K. Villagomez

**San Vicente Elementary School**  
Principal: Paulette Tomokane  
Coaches: Antonette Ayuyu & Joaquin Camacho  
1. Khaiceil Barcina - Drawing,

Storytelling, 3rd Place  
2. Khaiceil Barcina - Drawing,

Storytelling  
3. Mirai Castro - Storytelling  
4. Jayke Ogo - Storytelling

**Sinapalo Elementary School**  
Principal: Daisy Quitugua  
Coaches: Dawno Agbayani & Alvina King

1. Kelissa Hocog - Storytelling  
2. Airah Magofna - Oratorical Reading, 2nd place  
3. Ekesha Pinuala - Poema, 3rd place  
4. Branden Asher Reyel - Male Singer  
5. Josity Untalan - Female Singer, 3rd place

**Tinian Elementary School**  
Principal: Lou Connie Manglona  
Coach: Angie Fitial  
Chaperones: Lorena Cabrera,

Melton Atalig, Elloy Fitial  
Support Parents: Thealani Atalig, Marvieluz Syed, Kerry Borja

**Choral Reading**  
1. Amorisha Arriola  
2. Calen Borja  
3. Niesa Borja  
4. Naveah Cabrera  
5. Kunin Cepeda  
6. Kiara Cepeda  
7. Alice Chen  
8. Piper Christian - also Oratorical Reading, 3rd Place  
9. Carther Cruz  
10. Niziah Dela Cruz  
11. Thomas Erickson  
12. Emar Gammad  
13. Armina Hossain  
14. Janean King  
15. Celeste Monkeya  
16. Austin Muna  
17. Tonia Pascua

**Continued on Next Page**



### United States Air Force Seeks Public Input for Cultural Resources Interpretive Plan



The U.S. Air Force (Air Force) is seeking public input regarding the preparation of a Cultural Resources Interpretive Plan for historic properties on Tinian. The Interpretive Plan is one of the Air Force's commitments in the Amendment to the Programmatic Agreement between the Air Force, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Historic Preservation Office, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation to resolve adverse effects on cultural resources that could result from the Divert Activities and Exercises (Divert) and the Tinian Divert Infrastructure Improvements (Pipeline) projects. The purpose of the Interpretive Plan is to provide the Air Force with a strategy to prepare educational and historical interpretation materials of historic properties in the Divert and Pipeline project areas for the public. The plan and interpretive materials would be developed by the U.S. Air Force, in coordination with the CNMI, with input from the public. These project areas include West Field (at the Tinian Airport), the Tinian Seaport, and areas between them.

In late 2017, the Air Force sought initial public input on a plan to interpret the World War II historic features of West Field based on the Divert project. Comments received from this solicitation expressed an interest in interpretive products for West Field that included other time periods and resources. The scope of the Interpretive Plan was expanded in the Amendment to the Programmatic Agreement to include cultural resources in both project areas and from all represented time periods. The Air Force is seeking public input in the development of this Plan.

The Interpretive Plan will discuss content and evaluate options for future educational interpretive products for cultural resources in the Divert and Pipeline project areas. Possible products include but are not limited to: signage at publicly accessible historic features, printed brochures, exhibits and/or displays, and electronic products. The Air Force respectfully requests public input on the format and content of interpretive products, including suggested answers to the following questions:

- Who should the interpretive products be for? Who should the intended audience(s) be?
- What are important historical topics and themes that should be addressed?
- Do you have any stories about the project areas or its historic resources?
- What format should interpretive products take?

The Air Force will consider the comments received during the preparation of the Interpretive Plan. Those who wish to provide input are encouraged to submit their comments by email to [valerie.curtis.1@us.af.mil](mailto:valerie.curtis.1@us.af.mil) or by mail to:

Valerie Curtis  
25 E St., Suite C-300  
JBPHH, HI 96853-5427  
ATTN: Air Force Interpretive Plan

**To ensure the Air Force has sufficient time to consider public input in the interpretive planning process, please submit comments by Friday, April 14, 2023.**

[www.PACAFDivertMarianasEIS.com](http://www.PACAFDivertMarianasEIS.com)

## HOW TO PROTECT OUR TURTLES 5 WAYS TO HELP



### 1. Give them space



Sea turtles are protected by the Endangered Species Act and CNMI Public Law 02-51. If you see a turtle, give them space and enjoy watching them from afar.

### 2. Allow turtles to feed on their own

Feeding sea turtles jeopardizes their health and safety. It may also affect their feeding habits. Let them graze and hunt for their food independently.



### 5. Contact the Sea Turtle hotline

If you see any sea turtles in distress, stranded, nesting, or hatching please contact our Sea Turtle hotline at (670) CTRTLES / 287-8537

### 4. Go slow for turtles below

Keep an eye out for passing turtles and practice boating safety to reduce vessel strikes.



### 3. Dispose of trash & use eco-friendly items

Keep our beaches clean by picking up after yourself and by participating in beach cleanups. Also, use reusable bags and environmentally friendly, low-plastic products.



Follow Us For Updates



**From Page 14**

18.Precila Roldan  
19.Nusrat Syed  
20.Cian Sylvestre  
21.Cathy Xia

**William S. Reyes Elementary School**

Principal: Lynn Sharon Mendiola  
Coaches: Carmen B. Sablan-He & Marlon Cabrera  
1.Edrich Armia - Drawing  
2.Tristan Olita - Drawing  
3.Charles Reyes - Drawing  
4.Hudson Igisomar - Storytelling

**ChaCha Ocean View Middle School**

Principal: Carla A. Sablan  
Coaches: Rose Sharon T. Jones & Ronnie L. Aguon  
Chaperone: Le'ah Murphy, Vice Principal

1.Mary Amog - Oratorical Reading, 1st Place  
2.Cyrena C. Ada - Poetry Recitation, 1st Place

3.Manuel Degracia - Middle School Essay Participant  
4.Berlani Juana Indalecio - Middle School Essay, 2nd Place

5.Toviann S. Masiwemai - Middle School Essay Participant  
6.Melva Nelly Quitugua - Middle School Essay Participant

7.McKelly A. Reyes - Middle School Essay, 1st Place  
8.Vincent Reyes - Middle School Male Singer, 3rd Place

9.Tia-jo' Seman - Middle School - Female Singer, 1st Place

**Dandan Middle School**

Principal: James Sablan  
Coaches: Judi Castro and Elaine Cabrera

**Choral Reading, 3rd Place**

1.Jordan Jude Agulto  
2.Jason Arriola, Jr. - Male Singer, 2nd Place  
3.Lizelle Aubrey Blas  
4.Lilia A. Brien  
5.Angelina M. Camacho  
6.Sofia Cariaso  
7.Matua Fejera  
8.Aldyann J. Igisaia  
9.Riana Norian Jicko  
10.Kilena D. Kaipat  
11.Kyrie S. Palec  
12.Prashika Pandey  
13.Jared D. Reyes  
14.Alton Sablan  
15.Ysharei Sanje  
16.Jacris Jay Selepeo  
17.Kelly Hope Selkor  
18.Ayanna Stole  
19.Ciara A. Villagomez

**Francisco M. Sablan Middle School**  
Principal: Cherlyn Osung  
Coach: Gloria Rasiang  
Chaperones: Ezekiel Macario & Catherine Acerca-Cabrera, Vice Principal

**Choral Reading, 2nd Place**

1.Somayeh Blas - Poetry, 3rd Place

2.Caitlyn Burgo  
3.Calen Acerca-Cabrera

4.Konah Camacho  
5.Maria Camacho

6.Rexy Dornonila  
7.Sister Fred

8.Amber Guevarra  
9.Aiden Gimed

10.Que'ana Limes  
11.Jared Manahane

12.Elizha Maratila  
13.Ailana Mendiola

14.Elika Mendiola  
15.Marcus Nego

16.Elerie Rose Reyes  
17.Vangelyn Serrano

18.Gidana Sharry

**Hopwood Middle School**  
Principal: Victorino Borja  
Coaches: Donald Mendiola, Rebecca Sablan, Victorino Borja, Ruby Hocog, Victor Cabrera, Didiich Tudela, Connie Camacho, Kimberly Palacios  
1.Jose R. Iguel - Poetry, 2nd Place

**Choral Reading, 1st Place**

1.Destynee Aguon  
2.Beatrice Arkoh  
3.Evan Cabrera  
4.Miyako Celis  
5.Jamie Deblos  
6.Geellana DeLeon Guerrero  
7.Rayana Ichihara  
8.James Lao  
9.Alvin Lazar  
10.Ha'ane Manibusan  
11.Jeane J. Merjilla  
12.Lurlene Odal  
13.Seano Pangelinan  
14.Princess Rigua  
15.Jheams Sagana  
16.Aquinna Santos  
17.Jim Sison  
18.Andri Sonio  
19.Jonathan Vargas  
20.Toby Yan

**Chant, 1st Place**

1.Majerson Assito  
2.Caleb Joshua Cabrera  
3.Julie Cobacha  
4.Johnlane Dela Cruz  
5.Hope Trinity Hocog  
6.Alisha Hossain  
7.Twayne Kapwich  
8.Akiko Lyvonne Macaranas  
9.Manuel Mangarero  
10.Shiloh Pelisamen  
11.Jayden Reyes  
12.Claude Ruben  
13.Branson Santos  
14.Damien Santos - Male Singer  
15.Paulette Somol  
16.Chelsea Sonoda

17.Dewayne Teregeyo  
18.Doreane Viana Tudela  
19.Eliisa Yleisa  
20.Caleb Yug

**Tanapag Middle School**  
Coaches: Christiana Duenas & Oliver Iguel

1.Jon Pinuela - Male Singer  
2.Triana Sablan - Female Singer

**Tinian Jr/Sr High School**  
Principal: Lizbeth Hofsneider  
Coaches: Velma Reyes, Jerome Reyes, Eric Reyes

1.Ysabella Lenteja - Poetry, 3rd Place

2.Patrick Manglona - Essay, 3rd Place

3.Le'trisha Palacios - Female Singer, 2nd Place

4.Jayden Reyes - Male Singer, 1st Place

**Dr. Rita Hocog Jr./Sr. High School**

Principal: Denise R. King  
Coach: Therese Manalang  
1.Denicia Lizama - Poetry,

3rd Place  
2.Aden Calvo - Oratorical Reading

**Kagman High School**

Principal: Benjamin Jones Jr.  
Coaches: Elsie San Nicolas Johnson

1.Oceana Tegeita - Poetry, 1st Place

2.Issa Tegeita - Poetry

3.Liza Marie Agulto - Female Singer, 2nd Place

4.Zared Nekafes - Male Singer, 3rd Place

**Marianas High School**

Principal: Mr. Jonathan Agun  
Coaches: Anita & Alvin Sablan, Candice Muna, Luis John Castro

1.Ranasia Bocago - Dramatic Cultural Interpretation, 1st Place

2.Jeyanna Crisostomo - Dramatic Cultural Interpretation, 1st Place

3.Aisha DeLeon Guerrero - Dramatic Cultural Interpretation & Song and Dance, 1st Place

4.Sohayla DeLeon Guerrero - Dramatic Cultural Interpretation, Song & Dance & Speech, 1st Place

5.Amber Fitial - Song & Dance, 1st Place

6.Ricky Fitipol - Song & Dance, 1st Place

7.Dayna Hocog - Dramatic Cultural Interpretation, 1st Place

8.Gianna Lizama - Dramatic Cultural Interpretation, 1st Place

9.Melva Mafnas - Dramatic Cultural Interpretation, 1st Place

10.Isa Manabat - Dramatic Cultural Interpretation, 1st Place

11.Eliza Manglona - Song & Dance, 1st Place

12.Justin Pangelinan - Song & Dance, 1st Place

13.Tricia Rabago - Dramatic Cultural Interpretation, 1st Place

14.Tyler Sasamoto - Dramatic Cultural Interpretation & Song & Dance, 1st Place

15.McGarett Songao - Song & Dance, 1st Place

16.Mandy Tenorio - Song & Dance, 1st Place; Female Singer, 3rd Place

17.Nicolas Terlaje - Song & Dance, 1st Place; Proficiency, 2nd Place

18.Jenissa Ilo - Alternate/Support

**Commonwealth Utilities Corporation****JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

JVA No. 23-058

Opening Date: Monday, March 27, 2023

Closing Date: Monday, April 10, 2023

**POSITION TITLE:** Grants Writer  
**DEPARTMENT:** Executive Director/Grants Office  
**LOCATION:** Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA  
**ANNUAL SALARY:** \$37,756.00 - \$50,970.00 per annum, Exempt  
**CONTRACT:** Contracted  
**POSITION(S):** One (1)



The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") is seeking for a qualified Grants Writer. Under the direct supervision of the Grants Manager or his/her designee the responsibilities will be as follows:

**Duties:**

- Grant Writer is responsible to research on potential federal government agencies offering grants exclusively for utility-oriented project(s).
- Writes, edits, and proofreads proposals in accordance with grantor standards and requirements and in-line with utility milestones.
- Must work along-side Division Managers, Project Managers and/or Engineers in order to attain a comprehensive project proposal(s) meeting grant required standards.
- Maintain and track grant requests and reporting requirements.
- Maintains grant data and files regarding information about grantors, including contact information, requests for funding, reporting requirements, deadlines, and whether the requests are funded or not funded corresponding to existing funded or partially-funded projects.
- Corresponds with prospects and grantors, including following up to check on status of proposals and reporting back to them on their program investments.
- Coordinate with Grants Administrator in response to questions concerning grant requirements and compliance.
- Prepares accurate and timely progress reports and regularly informs Grants Administrator of project status and any deviation from established timeline or goals and for Executive Director monthly reporting.
- Should possess excellent writing and computer skills and database management skills.
- Must be highly organized with the ability to implement systems and follow-up processes, able to effectively work under pressure, use independent judgment and produce quality work product within tight time constraints.
- Previous experience will demonstrate a proven track record in securing new funding opportunities, comprehensive knowledge of research and the ability to distinguish and identify funding opportunities for special programs.
- Perform other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

**Minimum Requirements:**

**Education:** Associates' Degree in Business Administration, Public Administration or directly related field and 4 years of experience in Grants and Grants Administration; or, an equivalent combination of education and experience sufficient to successfully perform the essential duties of the job such as those listed above

**Knowledge of:** Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Human Resource principles and practices; Program administration principles; Customer service principles; Mathematical concepts; Research methods; Database and records management principles; Modern office technology.

**Skills in:** Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; Administering and monitoring programs, policies and processes; Coordinating the implementation of human resource services; Researching and analyzing program-related data and resource information; Providing customer service; Interpreting policies and providing relevant information and guidance; Prioritizing work in order to meet time-sensitive program deadlines; Tracking and auditing data, forms, records and documentation; Preparing reports, correspondence, and program support materials; Updating and maintaining information systems and confidential records; Coordinating and assisting with projects; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

**Licensing:**

o Valid CNMI Driver's License with appropriate class.

**Physical Demands:**

o Occasional lifting of objects, Subject to standing, walking, sitting, bending, reaching, kneeling, pushing and pulling.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

**How to Apply:** Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131

CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

**Commonwealth Utilities Corporation****JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

JVA No. 23-057

Opening Date: Monday, March 27, 2023

Closing Date: Monday, April 10, 2023

<b>POSITION TITLE:</b>	FEMA Disaster and Project Specialist (Management & Planning)
<b>DEPARTMENT:</b>	Renewable Energy & Systems Planning
<b>LOCATION:</b>	Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA
<b>ANNUAL SALARY:</b>	\$65,000.00 - \$70,000.00 per annum, Exempt
<b>CONTRACT:</b>	Contracted
<b>POSITION(S):</b>	One (1)

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Deputy Director for Electric Power Systems or his/her designee. This classification specification represents only the core areas of responsibilities; specific position assignments will vary depending on the needs of Renewable Energy and Systems Planning.

**Roles & Responsibilities:**

- Serve as a strong disaster recovery expert, with demonstrated experience supporting local governments through long term recoveries from natural disasters, with the ability to as a hands-on project manager overseeing a dynamic and complex disaster recovery. Expected to leverage understanding of the myriad of federal and state funding streams (e.g., FEMA Public Assistance, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, Community Disaster Block Grants – Disaster Recovery, etc.), and how they can be strategically pursued and layered to address complex issues and needs in a post-catastrophic disaster environment.
- Serve as a FEMA Public Assistance Program subject matter expert and be able to answer policy related questions within a reasonable, but necessary timeframe.
- Oversee a multi-disciplinary team supporting all aspects of a recovery (e.g., cost recovery, infrastructure redevelopment, economic development, housing, social services, etc.), delegating tasks, assessing staffing needs, and developing methodologies to meet unmet needs and maximizing funding.
- Maintain strong project management best practices, ensuring the client has visibility on all efforts; deliverables are of the utmost quality; and upholding Hagerty's core values of integrity, innovation, teamwork, and excellence within all efforts.

- Duties:**
- Provide programmatic assistance to clients and maintain currency of and compliance with applicable state and federal grant management policies and procedures relating to recovery (i.e., the PA Grant Program, Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA), Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC), programs funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), etc.).
  - Responsible for tracking contracts, maintaining project cost projections, internal project documentation, and project status.
  - Identify potential impacts/implications of policy changes to Federal/State/Local programs and provide briefings as required.
  - Develop Disaster Recovery Frameworks for clients to include pre-and-post-disaster recovery plans, job aids, and implementation plans.
  - Conduct needs assessment and gap analysis as it relates to recovery planning, the client's emergency operations plan, and mitigation planning.
  - Conduct meetings and briefings with applicants.
  - Facilitate recovery stakeholder meetings to include development of meeting agendas and PowerPoint presentations.
  - Write; proposals, RFI documentation and data to support state and local government grant reimbursement projects.
  - Perform project validation reviews and address inconsistencies, special considerations, and compliance issues with management.
  - Make hazard mitigation determinations and recommendations to reduce or eliminate the chance of damages occurring in the future.
  - Provide technical guidance and recommendations to management.
  - Identify and elevate administrative issues for resolution.
  - Review supporting documentation for the assigned sub-awards to ensure that each sub-recipient receives appropriate reimbursements.
  - Develop, maintain, and implement plans and procedures associated with the effective and efficient delivery and monitoring of grant performance.
  - Perform quality control review procedures over work performed by other Disaster Recovery Specialists and Grants Management Specialists.
  - Collaborate with WOB's Disaster Recovery Specialists to identify and elevate financial and administrative issues for resolution, including responding to Federal Awarding Agency or Recipient Request for Information.
  - Interacting with senior staff from focal, state, and federal government.
  - Supervising Disaster Recovery Specialists and other staff.
  - Perform other duties of similar nature and level as assigned by management.

**Situational Awareness:** During site assessments, conditions may be austere including prolong exposure to excessive heat and cold, prolonged sun exposure and no electricity, heat, or air conditioning. Other potential risks include air quality issues, standing water, mosquitoes, snakes, debris, and other potential exposures.

**Physical Demands:** Site assessments may require extensive walking and standing for extended periods of time; working in small spaces, tunnels, and ditches; climbing ladders.

# Business

## Pâte Puffs & Pastries: Making special occasions better

By MARK RABAGO  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

**A** father-and-son tandem are making special occasions on Saipan more exceptional by creating one-of-a-kind cakes at Pâte Puffs & Pastries.

Raul Mojica, who used to work at a bakery and local deli, said the business was established in July 2021 by his son, Cyril, together with his wife.

"Pâte Puff & Pastries is a family business that focuses on assorted pastries and cakes. We opened our doors in July 2021 right after the pandemic, where the majority of the

community received government financial aid which gave a boost to our sales," he said.

Aside from their intricate custom decorated cakes "tailored to the customers' imagination," the Mojica family business has also become quite known for their assorted cream puffs.

The 55-year-old and his son opted to open a custom cake and specialty pastries bakery because "there's no way they can compete with the many commercial bakeries on the island."

Since opening nearly two years ago, Pâte Puffs & Pastries has gained a small but loyal following.

"Due to the quality of our



Pâte Puff & Pastries is located along Tun Joaquin Road in Chalan Kanoa on the highway going up to Fina Sisu.

work we provide to customers, we've received a lot of positive feedback from the community. Some of the best

feedback we've received is that our cakes are actually as delicious as they look while not being overly sweet."

Mojica, who hails from Mandaluyong, Philippines with over 30 years of baking experience, said his custom cakes range in price from \$80 to \$180 and can take as much as a week to bake and assemble.

"The customer will send us a photo of the design they want and we always try our best to copy it. Honestly, we can really copy 80%-90% of the likeness of what our customers send," he said.

As of now, Pâte Puff & Pastries, unfortunately, remains just a takeout store that can also take orders online.

"The bakeshop space isn't enough to house dine-in customers. However, it's big enough for a customer to walk in and place an order of their liking," added the elder Mojica.

Aside from opening a business during the pandemic, Mojica admits the rise in the cost of baking ingredients like eggs, milk, flour, etc. has also been challenging.

Being located inside the village and not in the main roads of

Saipan has also been limiting, but Mojica and his son have rectified this disadvantage by making their unique and tasty cakes and cream puffs speak for themselves, which in turn has spread the bakery's reputation through word of mouth.

Pâte Puff & Pastries is located along Tun Joaquin Road in Chalan Kanoa on the highway going up to Fina Sisu. They're currently open from Tuesday to Sunday, 9am-2pm. You can reach them at [patepuffpastries@gmail.com](mailto:patepuffpastries@gmail.com), call them at (670) 286-8946, or on their Facebook account.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
A sample of one of their more intricate custom birthday cakes.

### AK supports UOG's PMBA Students' Capstone: Project HOVERx



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Atkins Kroll donates \$2,000 to UOG's PMBA Cohort XVIII to support Capstone Project: HOVERx. The Cohort's proof-of-concept project intends to demonstrate the ability to utilize drones for the delivery of preventative healthcare items to remote areas of the state of Pohnpei. From left, Ernie Galito, AK business development director; Michelle Puno, PMBA capstone project manager; Tom Mazzei, AK sales director; Dr. Roseann Jones, UOG School of Business and Public Administration interim dean; Hazel Estrellado, PMBA capstone project manager; Trina Cruz, AK Marketing and Communications director; Charlie Hermosa, PMBA capstone advisor; and Camarin Cabral, PMBA candidate.

**TAMUNING, GUAM**—Atkins Kroll presented students in the University of Guam's Professional Master of Business Administration Cohort XVIII with financial sponsorship to support their Capstone Project: HOVERx. The Cohort's proof-of-concept project is intended to demonstrate the ability to utilize drones for the delivery of preventative healthcare items to remote areas within the Federated States of Micronesia.

"Drones have saved lives all over the world by delivering medical supplies to hard-to-reach places. To see our university students devote their final semester hours proving this revolutionary concept can be applied, in our region, is very inspiring," said Atkins Kroll Marketing and Communications director Trina Cruz.

The cohort will be traveling to the island state of Pohnpei within the Federated States of Micronesia this weekend, to conduct a test flight to demonstrate the capability of drones to deliver healthcare kits to remote areas in Pohnpei. "This team has worked hard for the last nine months in the UOG PMBA program, and this project really is a culmination of everything we've learned," said HOVERx Project manager Hazel Estrellado. "We are excited to see our plans come to life especially for a project like HOVERx that has the potential to impact so many people." (PR)



MARK BABAGO  
Pâte Puff & Pastries custom cake artist Raul Monica.

### MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION

Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Kom Kmal Mesulang,  
and Thank You to our family and friends for  
the many expressions of kindness, support,  
and love shown following the  
passing of our beloved

+Bradley T. Ngewakl

Your thoughtfulness is appreciated  
and will always be remembered.

Yvonne, Pia, Nolan,  
the Ngewakl and Sablan Families

### BOH named one of most trustworthy companies

**HONOLULU, HAWAII**—For the second consecutive year, Bank of Hawai'i is named on a national ranking of "Most Trustworthy Companies in America" by Newsweek and is the only business in Hawai'i to appear on the list. A total of 700 companies across 23 industries are listed. In the banking industry category, Bank of Hawai'i ranks No. 4 nationwide.

Newsweek partnered with Statista, a statistics database and consumer research firm, to compile its second annual list of Most Trustworthy Companies in America. Publicly held and privately held companies with revenues over \$500 million

were evaluated on customer trust, investor trust, and employee trust. The rankings were determined based on a sample of 25,000 surveyed individuals from a total of 95,000 evaluations submitted.

"We are thrilled to again be named as one of the most trustworthy companies in the nation. Bank of Hawai'i strives every day to build and maintain meaningful connections, both in the community and with our employees. To be recognized for a second year in a row on a ranking based on trust is an incredible honor," said Bank of Hawai'i chairman, president, and CEO Peter Ho. (PR)

# Nation

## ACROSS THE NATION

### **Victims of Nashville school shooting honored in somber vigil**

**NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)**—Hundreds gathered Wednesday at a candlelight vigil in Nashville to honor and mourn the three children and three adults who were killed in a shooting at a Christian school this week. The downtown ceremony for the victims of the shooting at The Covenant School was somber and at times tearful, as speaker after speaker read the names of the victims and offered condolences to their loved ones. The family of Mike Hill, a 61-year-old custodian who was among those killed, was in attendance, including his seven children. First lady Jill Biden also was on hand but did not address the crowd. Sheryl Crow sang “I Shall Believe” and ended with the lyrics from a Dionne Warwick song, “What the World Needs Now is Love, Sweet Love.” Margo Price sang an a cappella version of “Tears of Rage.” And Ketch Secor of Old Crow Medicine Show led the crowd in the Christian hymn, “Will the Circle Be Unbroken,” which brought many to tears. “Just two days ago was our city’s worst day,” Mayor John Cooper said. “I so wish we weren’t here, but we need to be here.” Shaundelle Brooks, who lost her 23-year-old son, Akilah Dasilva, in the 2018 Nashville Waffle House shooting, said she went to the vigil to support the families of those slain at the school. “I know what it’s like to be a parent — what it feels like, like you’re drowning and can’t move, and that weakness and that hole that comes in your stomach,” she said. Police have said a 28-year-old former student drove up to the school Monday morning, shot out the glass doors, entered and began firing indiscriminately. The dead were identified as students Evelyn Dieckhaus, Hallie Scruggs and William Kinney, all 9 years old; Katherine Koonce, 60, the head of the school; substitute teacher Cynthia Peak, 61; and Hill. Authorities have not yet determined the shooter’s motive but say the assailant did not target specific victims.

### **Biden won’t veto Republican-led bill ending COVID emergency**

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—President Joe Biden won’t veto a Republican-led measure to end the national COVID emergency, despite having expressed strong objections against it earlier this year, ensuring the bill is on an easy path to becoming law. It marks the second time in the new Congress that the Biden administration has signaled op-

position to a Republican measure, rallying most Democrats in Congress to vote against it, only to soften its stance and let the legislation eventually become law. Just weeks ago, Biden stunned many fellow Democrats when he declined to veto a Republican-led bill to expand a new criminal code for the District of Columbia he and others in the president’s party opposed, allowing the GOP’s tough-on-crime push into the local government to become law. Republicans celebrated the turn of events Wednesday as a sign of their newfound influence in divided Washington, while Democrats quietly complained that the Biden administration had shifted its views. But the White House stood firm, and the Senate gave final approval, 68-23, sending the bill to Biden’s desk. A White House official said that when the House Republicans were first preparing to vote on the bill at the start of the year, it would have lifted the national emergency declaration for the coronavirus pandemic in February. But now, it’s much closer to the White House’s own plan to wind down COVID national emergency status on May 11. The president still strongly opposes the legislation, said the official, who was granted anonymity to discuss the situation. But if this bill comes to Biden’s desk, he will sign it, the official said. Ahead of voting, Sen. Roger Marshall, R-Kan., one of the bill’s main sponsors, said he hoped “that the rumors are true — that the president will finally sign this legislation.” The legislation is a simple one-line measure saying that the national emergency declared on March 13, 2020, “is hereby terminated.”

### **Sibling, 5, fatally shoots 16-month-old brother in Indiana**

**LAFAYETTE, Ind. (AP)**—A 16-month-old boy was fatally shot by his 5-year-old sibling at a northwestern Indiana apartment, authorities said. The older sibling accessed a handgun inside the Lafayette apartment on Tuesday afternoon and fatally shot the boy, who was identified as Isiah Johnson, police said late Tuesday. Lafayette police Lt. Matt Gard said someone outside of the apartment called 911 after the shooting to report that a child was not breathing. “There was one adult and two children inside the apartment,” Gard told the Journal & Courier. An autopsy was scheduled for Wednesday to determine the child’s cause and manner of death. No arrests had been made as of Wednesday morning and the case remains under investigation, police said. When the investigation is completed, officials said the case will be sent to the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor’s Office for review to determine if charges might be filed. Lafayette is located about 60 miles (96 kilometers) north of Indianapolis.



## JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

McKinley Care Assisted Living, Anchorage Alaska seeks experienced caregivers. \$16-20/ hour base pay. Flight to Alaska paid. Housing assistance provided. Call 907-531-6078 or email Shaw Reyes at shaw@mckinley.care.

## CITY TRUST BANK

### VEHICLE FOR SALE

#### 2019 NISSAN FRONTIER K/CAB PICK UP

Please contact City Trust Bank Loans Department at telephone numbers (670) 235-7701/02/04 for more details.

Bid forms are available at City Trust Bank, Middle Rd., Gualo Rai. Bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope and must be received by March 31, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. Winning bidder shall be notified in writing.

The Bank reserves the right to reject any or all offer.

## JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

**NAME OF EMPLOYER:** Pacific Marine Enterprises, Inc.

**THE POSITION:** Electrician

**JOB DESCRIPTION:** Installs and repairs electrical wiring, systems, equipment, or fixtures; Installs conduits and pipes to house electrical wires and cables; Ensures piping complies with electrical codes; Installs circuit breakers and other electrical hardware and connects wiring to them; Connects electrical systems to powerlines to provide electricity to buildings; Tests electrical systems to ensure proper installation and operation using testing devices, such as ohmmeters, voltmeters, or oscilloscopes; Inspects electrical systems to determine whether repairs are needed; Replaces conduit and wirings as needed; Replaces circuit breakers as needed; Inspects electrical systems, equipment, or components to identify hazards, defects, or the need for adjustment or repair, and to ensure compliance with codes; and Performs other related duties as assigned.

### MINIMUM QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

**EDUCATION:** Must be at least High School graduate

**EXPERIENCE:** Must have at least twenty-four (24) months of relevant work experience as Electrician.

**SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:** Ability to read blueprints; Knowledge of electrical systems and wirings; Ability to use hand tools and power tools measuring devices, power tools, and testing equipment, such as oscilloscopes, ammeters, or test lamps; Proficient in the use of test meters and other diagnostic equipment; Excellent analytical and problem-solving skills.

**JOB SITE:** Chalan Pale Arnold Papai Dr., As Mahetog, Tanapag, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

**HOW TO APPLY:** Submit or mail comprehensive resume, with supporting credentials, and application letter to:

**DANILYN D. VARELA**

General Manager

**PACIFIC MARINE ENTERPRISES, INC.**

**Office Address:** Chalan Pale Arnold Papai Dr., As Mahetog, Tanapag Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

**Mailing Address:** PMB 181, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950

**Email Address:** danilynvarela@outlook.com

**Telephone Number:** Tel. 1(670) 233-0744

## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



### JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 23-056

Opening Date: March 21, 2023

Closing Date: April 04, 2023

<b>POSITION TITLE:</b>	Trades Assistant
<b>DEPARTMENT:</b>	Tinian Water Division
<b>LOCATION:</b>	Tinian, Northern Mariana Islands, USA
<b>ANNUAL SALARY:</b>	\$16,742.00 - \$22,602.00 per annum, Non-Exempt
<b>CONTRACT:</b>	Not Contracted
<b>POSITION(S):</b>	One (1)

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Resident Manager or his/her designee.

- Assists with installations, repairs and general maintenance in assigned service area; operates motorized vehicles, equipment machinery, and hand and power tools.
- Performs routine and preventative maintenance on equipment, vehicles, systems and/or infrastructure; performs basic inspections; and conducts basic troubleshooting of issues.
- Responds to trouble calls as needed.
- Prepares job site for work including gathering and setting up materials and supplies, and setting work safety barriers for protection and to direct traffic flow away from work site.
- Gathers, cleans and returns equipment, materials and supplies used.
- Cleans and maintains work site after project or repair work is complete.
- Monitors equipment; takes readings and collects data; documents equipment readings; prepares and submits data and work reports.
- Performs inventory spot checks to ensure adequate materials and supplies are available for daily maintenance activities.
- Performing daily well and pump station facility maintenance, cleaning and monitoring;
- Assisting plumbing and chlorine maintenance crew;
- Utilizing digging equipment for locating and repairing leaks;
- Repairing and securing pressure reducer valves, main valves, service lines and laterals, and booster pumps;
- Assisting with meter installation and repair;
- Collecting water samples.
- Must be able to lift objects weighing at 40 lbs. or more.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

#### Minimum Requirements:

**Education:** High School Diploma or GED or ABE Program AS Diploma.

**Knowledge of:** Customer service principles; Basic mathematical concepts; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology.

**Skills in:** Providing customer service; Reading maps and drawings; Operating heavy and light equipment machinery, hand and power tools required of assigned area; Adhering to safety procedures and safe work practices; Prioritizing tasks and managing time for efficiency; Identifying issues and solving problems; Providing attention to detail; Taking equipment readings and recording data; Maintaining activity logs and reports; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

#### Licensing:

- Valid CNMI Driver’s License with appropriate class.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

**How to Apply:** Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131

CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

# Asia

## Taiwan's president begins US visit to shore up support

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Taiwan's president is beginning a swing through the United States and Central America, a visit aimed at showing that her self-ruled island has allies as it faces a rising threat from China.

Taiwan was carefully calibrating President Tsai Ing-wen's stops in the United States, and as always forgoing any official meetings with senior U.S. leaders in Washington, in an effort to contain what China said would be a strong but as yet unspecified response.

Tsai arrived in New York on Wednesday and was scheduled to spend Thursday in the city, but few details of the trip were made public.

A senior Chinese diplomat in Washington, embassy charge d'affaires Xu Xueyan, pointed to an expected meeting between Tsai and House Speaker Kevin McCarthy elsewhere in the country. The meeting would have serious repercussions overall and a "serious, serious, serious" impact on U.S.-China relations, she said in a virtual session with reporters on Wednesday.

Sen. Robert Menendez, a New Jersey Democrat and chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said he hopes any U.S. officials meeting unofficially with the president convey that American support for Taiwan is "strong and unequivocal."

Taiwan is an important part-



Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen leaves a hotel in New York, Wednesday, March 29, 2023.

for Washington in the Indo-Pacific and a major recipient of U.S. military aid. The U.S., Taiwan and their allies in the region are boosting their military readiness with the aim of deterring or defending against any future military action by China, which claims the island as its own.

Last August, Beijing responded to the visit of then-House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to Taiwan by launching missiles, deploying warships across the median line of the Taiwan Strait and simulating a blockade of the island. China also temporarily suspended dialogue with the U.S. on climate and other major issues and restricted military-to-

military communication with the Pentagon.

Tsai has made six trips through the U.S. during her presidency, meeting with members of Congress and members of the Taiwanese diaspora. Administration officials are underscoring that her coming trip, which Taiwan calls a "transit," is in line with what she and her predecessors have done in the past.

Tsai's "transit is consistent with our long-standing unofficial relationship with Taiwan and is consistent with the United States' one-China policy, which remains unchanged," White House national security

spokesman John Kirby told reporters Wednesday.

"The People's Republic of China should not use this transit as a pretext to step up any aggressive activity around the Taiwan Strait," Kirby said. "The United States and China have differences when it comes to Taiwan. But we have managed those differences for more than 40 years."

Tsai told reporters before boarding her plane to the United States that "Taiwan will resolutely safeguard the values of freedom and democracy."

"External pressure will not obstruct our resolution to engage with the world," she said.

Tsai is expected to meet with the American Institute in Taiwan chair, Laura Rosenberger. AIT is the U.S. government-run nonprofit that carries out unofficial relations with Taiwan.

Her stops in Central America are expected to shore up Taiwan's partnerships there, after Honduras this month switched its diplomatic relations from Taiwan to China. Tsai accused China of using "dollar diplomacy" to lure away Honduras. Just 13 countries now officially recognize Taiwan.

Republican Rep. Mike Gallagher of Wisconsin, the chairman of the House Select Committee on China, said the visit is a chance for Tsai "to convey to the Congress how important the partnership between the U.S. and Taiwan is, and what's nec-

essary to preserve peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait."

Xu, the Chinese diplomat in Washington, accused Taiwan and the U.S. of harboring other aims for her trip.

"It should be clear to all that the so-called transit is merely a disguise to her true intention of seeking breakthrough and advocating Taiwan independence," she said.

**Myanmar junta dissolves Suu Kyi's party, much of opposition**

**BANGKOK** (AP)—Myanmar's military government took another major step in its ongoing campaign to cripple its political opponents on Wednesday, dissolving dozens of opposition parties including that of ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi for failing to meet a registration deadline ahead of elections.

Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy, or NLD, was one of 40 parties ordered dissolved in an official announcement by the election commission published Wednesday in the state-controlled press. The NLD governed Myanmar with overwhelming majorities in Parliament from 2015 to 2021 before being overthrown by the military.

The NLD had already announced that it would not register, denouncing the promised polls as a sham.

The party, and other critics, say the still-unscheduled polls will be neither free nor fair in a military-ruled country that has shut free media and arrested most of the leaders of Suu Kyi's party.

The NLD won a landslide victory in the November 2020 election, but in February 2021, the army blocked all elected lawmakers from taking their seats in Parliament and seized power, detaining top members of Suu Kyi's government and party.

The army takeover was met with widespread popular opposition. After peaceful demonstrations were put down with lethal force, many opponents of military rule took up arms, and large parts of the country are embroiled in conflict.

Suu Kyi, 77, is serving prison sentences totaling 33 years after being convicted in a series of politically tainted prosecutions brought by the military. Her supporters say the charges were contrived to prevent her from participating in politics.

Kyaw Htwe, a member of the NLD's Central Working Committee, told The Associat-

Tensions between Washington and Beijing have grown as China under President Xi Jinping seeks to expand its regional and global influence. Passage of what the U.S. said was a Chinese spy balloon across the U.S. this winter heightened Americans' sense of challenge from China. China says it was a research balloon that was blown off course.

**Asian Briefs**

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### Thai authorities battle spread of mountain wildfires

**BANGKOK** (AP)—Thai authorities on Thursday ordered urgent action to stop the spread of a fire that overnight engulfed forests on two mountains in a province northeast of the capital Bangkok. Firefighting vehicles had been deployed to extinguish the blaze, which broke out Wednesday night in Nakhon Nayok province, 114 kilometers (70 miles) northeast of Bangkok, government spokesman Anucha Burapachaisri said, adding that helicopters would be sent to provide further assistance. The fire began on a high part of Khao Chaplu mountain, where safe access for firefighters was impossible, Anucha said. It then spread to the adjacent Khao Laem mountain. Local media said high winds fanned the flames. Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-o-cha was closely monitoring the situation and

had ordered officials and the army to mobilize to stop the fire's spread, Anucha said.

#### Philippine ferry fire leaves 31 dead, at least 7 missing

**MANILA, Philippines** (AP)—A ferry carrying about 250 passengers and crew caught fire in the southern Philippines and 31 people drowned or died in the blaze and were discovered later, a provincial governor said Thursday. Many of those rescued had jumped off the MV Lady Mary Joy 3 in panic at the height of the fire and were plucked from the sea by the coast guard, navy, another ferry and local fishermen, said Gov. Jim Hataman of the southern island province of Basilan. The search and rescue effort was continuing Thursday for at least seven missing passengers. The burned ferry was towed to Basilan's shoreline, where coast guard personnel and other authorities later discov-

ered 18 more bodies in a budget section of the passenger cabin, Hataman said, adding the search of the vessel was continuing. "These victims perished onboard due to the fire," Hataman said. The governor said an investigation was underway and the discovery suggested there were additional travelers not listed on the vessel's manifest. The ferry was enroute to Jolo town in Sulu province from the southern port city of Zamboanga when it caught fire midway off Basilan close to midnight, he said. At least 23 passengers were injured and brought to hospitals. "Some of the passengers were roused from sleep due to the commotion caused by the fire. Some jumped off the ship," Hataman told The Associated Press by telephone.

#### Pakistan militants kill 4 police officers, hurt 6 in attacks

**PESHAWAR, Pakistan** (AP)—Taliban militants in

a pair of attacks killed four police officers by targeting a police vehicle with a roadside bomb and wounded six in an attack on a police station in northwest Pakistan early Thursday, police and the insurgents said. The bomb killed four officers in a police vehicle carrying reinforcements sent to respond to the attack on a police station in Lakki Marwat, a town in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province bordering Afghanistan. Six officers were wounded in the attack at the police station. Local police officer Ashfaq Khan said a search was underway for the militant suspects who attacked the police station in Lakki Marwat and later targeted the police vehicle with a bomb. Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif condemned the attack, saying he was saddened by the "martyrdom" of the targeted officers. "The sacrifices of our police officers in the war against terrorism are unforgettable," he said.

ed Press on Tuesday night that the party's existence does not depend on what the military decides, and it "will exist as long as the people support it."

His statement was a reference to a message Suu Kyi sent to her supporters through her lawyers in May 2021 when she appeared in court in person for the first time after the military seized power. She said "Since the NLD was founded for the people, the NLD will exist as long as the people exist."

"The party will continue to fulfill the responsibilities entrusted by the people," Kyaw Htwe said in a text message.

The army said it staged its 2021 takeover because of massive poll fraud, though independent election observers did not find any major irregularities. Some critics of Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing, who led the takeover and is now Myanmar's top leader, believe he acted because the vote thwarted his own political ambitions.

The new polls had been expected by the end of July, according to the army's own plans. But in February, the military announced a six-month extension of its state of emergency, delaying the possible legal date for holding an election. It said security could not be assured. The military does not control large swaths of the country, where it faces widespread armed resistance to its rule.

"Amid the state oppression following the 2021 coup, no election can be credible, especially when much of the population sees a vote as a cynical attempt to supplant the landslide victory of Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy in 2020," said a report issued Tuesday by the Brussels-based International Crisis Group think tank.

"The polls will almost certainly intensify the post-coup conflict, as the regime seeks to force them through and resistance groups seek to disrupt them."

# World

## Across Latin America, migrant blaze families left reeling

**SAN MARTIN JILOTEPEQUE, Guatemala** (AP)—The last Ana Marina López heard of her husband, the 51-year-old Guatemalan migrant told his family that he was being detained by Mexican immigration agents at the U.S.-Mexico border.

That was two days before a fire in an immigration detention center in Ciudad Juárez claimed the lives of at least 39 migrants and left more than two dozen injured.

Then his name appeared on a government list of the fire victims, but not specifying whether he was among the dead or the hospitalized. That has left López and her daughter back in their small western Guatemalan town clinging to hope that he may be alive.

And they aren't the only ones.

As images of the devastating blaze consume news broadcasts and social media, families scattered across the Americas are reeling in agony as they await news of their loved ones. The pain and uncertainty felt by families underscores how the effects of migration ripple far beyond the individuals who embark on the perilous journey north, touching the lives of people across the region.

In Juarez, Mexico, a sister waits for news of her Ven-

**Israel's Palestinians mostly sit out democracy protests**

to the longstanding injustices against them.

The patriotic hallmarks of the movement have only reinforced for many Palestinian Israelis that there is no place for them: the ubiquitous Star of David flag, the national anthem about the yearning of the Jewish soul for Israel, and the heavy participation of former officials from the military, an institution Palestinian citizens view with suspicion, if not hostility.

"In this demonstration, we don't talk about occupation. We don't talk about racism. We don't talk about discrimination," said Sami Abou Shehadeh, a former legislator in Israel's parliament. "And they call it a struggle for democracy."

Organizers say they have repeatedly invited Palestinian Israelis to participate but are keeping their message focused tightly on the overhaul.

The massive, monthslong demonstrations and a general strike forced Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu this week to postpone the overhaul. But he did not scrap it, and the protests are expected to continue.



Ana Marina Lopez, wife of Guatemalan migrant Bacilio Sutuj Saravia who was at a Mexican immigration detention center during a fire, cries during an interview at her home in San Martin Jilotepeque, Guatemala, Wednesday, March 29, 2023.

and leaving them locked up and burned. That pains me," López said.

In the rolling coffee-dotted mountains of western Honduras, the three families horrified by the surveillance video are awaiting confirmation of the fates of their sons. The three friends had set out together for the United States from their small town of Protección. Like many in the rural area, the men planned to work and send money back to support their families.

They met a smuggler in San Pedro Sula, a major point of departure in northern Honduras, who took them to Mexico.

On Tuesday the three men's names—Dikson Aron Cordova, Edin Josue Umaña and Jesús Adony Alvarado—were among those to appear on the government's list of victims without any details of whether they were alive.

"You want to be strong, but these are hard blows. They're unbearable," said José Córdova Ramos, father of 30-year-old Cordova. "We're waiting for real news that would be the first and the last, as they say, if

they are alive or dead."

Their concern is matched by anger from watching guards run away from growing flames and thickening smoke rapidly encapsulating migrants.

Another father rambles off questions: Who started the fire? How did they get fire in there? Did a guard give a lighter to someone inside?

"They didn't want to do anything," José Cordova said of the guards.

In Ciudad Juarez at the U.S.-Mexico border, 25-year-old Venezuelan nursing student Stefany Arango Morillo has been left with the same pit in her stomach.

She and her brother Stefan Arango Morillo, both single parents, migrated from their northern Venezuelan city of Maracaibo in February, leaving behind three young children between them with their mother in hopes of claiming asylum in the U.S.

Joining a rising wave of Venezuelans heading to the U.S. border, the siblings traversed seven countries in a month's time to reach Ciudad Juarez.

## Pope to be hospitalized for days with respiratory infection

**VATICAN CITY** (AP)—Pope Francis was hospitalized with a respiratory infection Wednesday after experiencing difficulty breathing in recent days and will remain in the Rome hospital for several days of treatment, the Vatican said.

The 86-year-old pope, who had part of one lung removed as a young man, doesn't have COVID-19, spokesman Matteo Bruni said in a statement late Wednesday.

The hospitalization was the first since Francis spent 10 days at the Gemelli hospital in July 2021 to have 33 centimeters (13 inches) of his colon removed.

While Palestinian Israelis have in many cases risen to the highest echelons of government, academia, and business, the population as a whole is poorer and less educated than Jewish Israelis.

In their criticism of the Supreme Court, Palestinian Israelis point to a 2021 decision to uphold a contentious law that defines the country as the nation-state of the Jewish people, a law they claim discriminates against minorities. They say the court generally permits Israel to build on occupied land and regularly allows Israel to demolish the homes of Palestinian attackers.

though he grimaced strongly while getting in and out of the "popemobile." He nevertheless rode around the square as usual, kissing babies and greeting the faithful.

Bruni said Francis, an Argentine Jesuit, was grateful for the prayers and messages wishing him a speedy recovery, including from the Italian bishops conference.

President Joe Biden, at the start of an Oval Office meeting with President Alberto Fernández of Argentina, told reporters he had just learned of Francis's health problems and said he was concerned about his dear "friend."

Francis had part of one lung removed when he was a young man due to a respiratory infection, and he often speaks in a whisper. But he got through the worst phases of the COVID-19 pandemic without at least any public word of ever testing positive.

Francis was scheduled to celebrate Palm Sunday this weekend, kicking off the Vatican's Holy Week observances: Holy Thursday, Good Friday, the Easter Vigil and finally Easter Sunday on April 9. He has canceled all audiences through Friday, but it wasn't clear whether he could keep the Holy Week plans.

# Off The Wall

## Elephant in the dining room: Startup makes mammoth meatball

**AMSTERDAM** (AP)—Throw another mammoth on the barbie?

An Australian company on Tuesday lifted the glass cloche on a meatball made of lab-grown cultured meat using the genetic sequence from the long-extinct pachyderm, saying it was meant to fire up public debate about the hi-tech treat.

The launch in an Amsterdam science museum came just days before April 1 so there was an elephant in the room: Is this for real?

"This is not an April Fools joke," said Tim Noakesmith, founder of Australian startup Vow. "This is a real innovation."

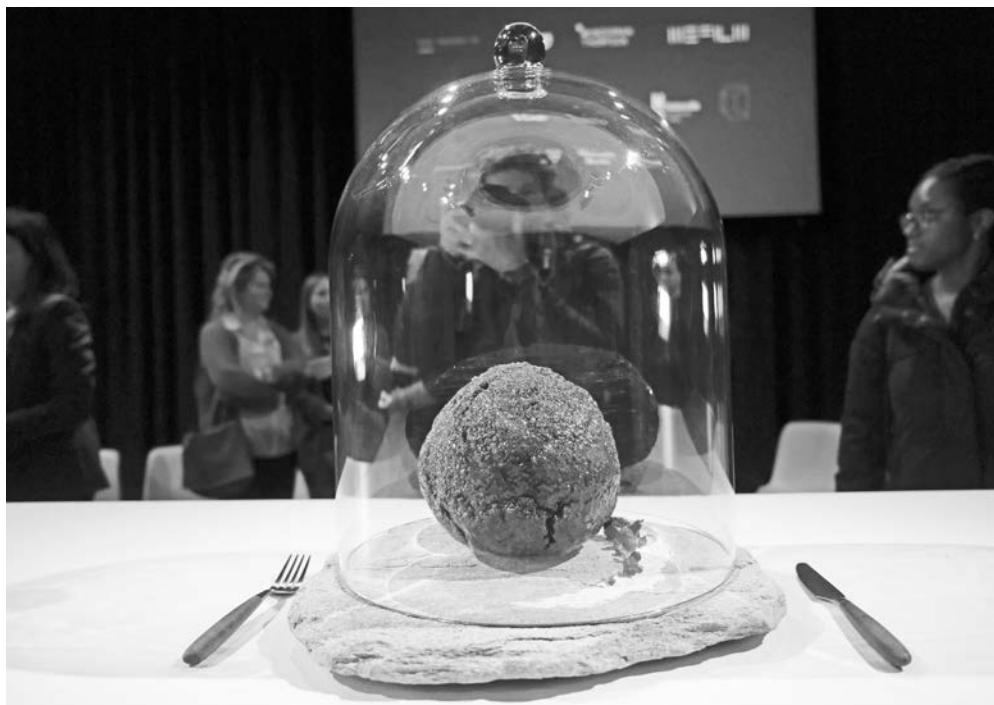
Cultivated meat—also called cultured or cell-based meat—is made from animal cells. Livestock doesn't need

to be killed to produce it, which advocates say is better not just for the animals but also for the environment.

Vow used publicly available genetic information from the mammoth, filled missing parts with genetic data from its closest living relative, the African elephant, and inserted it into a sheep cell, Noakesmith said. Given the right conditions in a lab, the cells multiplied until there were enough to roll up into the meatball.

More than 100 companies around the world are working on cultivated meat products, many of them startups like Vow.

Experts say that if the technology is widely adopted, it could vastly reduce the environmental impact of global meat production in the future. Currently, billions of acres of



A meatball made using genetic code from a mammoth is seen at the Nemo science museum in Amsterdam, Tuesday March 28, 2023.

Associated Press.

"But also the woolly mammoth has been traditionally a symbol of loss. We know now that it died from climate change. And so what we wanted to do was see if we could create something that was a symbol of a more exciting future that's not only better for us, but also better for the planet," he added.

Seren Kell, science and technology manager at Good Food Institute, a nonprofit that promotes plant- and cell-based alternatives to animal products, said he hopes the project "will open up new conversations about cultivated meat's extraordinary potential to produce more sustainable foods, reduce the climate impact of our existing food system and free up land for less intensive farming practices."

He said the mammoth project with its unconventional gene source was an outlier in the new meat cultivation sector, which commonly focuses on traditional livestock—cattle, pigs and poultry.

"By cultivating beef, pork, chicken, and seafood, we can have the most impact in terms of reducing emissions from conventional animal agriculture and satisfying growing global demand for meat while meeting our climate targets," he said.

## Greenland to stay in daylight saving time forever

**COPENHAGEN, Denmark** (AP)—Residents of Greenland have switched to daylight saving time and moved their clocks one hour forward this weekend for the very last time.

Unlike most of Europe, Greenlanders will leave their clocks untouched come autumn when daylight saving time ends. While Europe and the U.S. debates whether to stick to the twice-yearly practice, Greenland—a vast Danish semi-independent territory in the Arctic—has resolved to perennially remain only three hours behind

Copenhagen and most other European countries instead of four.

Greenland's parliament, Inatsisartut, voted to stick to daylight saving time year-round on Nov. 24 last year. Officials say it will give Greenlanders another hour of daylight in the afternoons and more time to do business with Europe and farther afield.

"The shift of time zone marks an exciting new beginning, an equal connection to North America and Europe, and an opportunity to slow down in a fast-paced world," Visit Greenland,

the local government's tourism office said in a statement.

Geographically, sparsely populated Greenland belongs to the North American continent but geopolitically, it is in Europe.

Greenland is part the Danish Realm and its southernmost tip is more than 3,200 kilometers (nearly 2,000 miles) west of Copenhagen.

Its 56,000 people mainly Inuit, indigenous people who chiefly live on the west coast in small towns and hamlets or remote coastal settlements.

land are used for agriculture worldwide.

But don't expect this to land on plates around the world any time soon. So far, tiny Singapore is the only country to have approved cell-based meat for consumption. Vow is hoping to sell its first product there—a cultivated Japanese quail meat—later this year.

The mammoth meatball is a one-off and has not been tasted, even by its creators, nor is it planned to be put into commercial production.

Instead, it was presented as a source of protein that would get people talking about the future of meat.

"We wanted to get people excited about the future of food being different to potentially what we had before. That there are things that are unique and better than the meats that we're necessarily eating now, and we thought the mammoth would be a conversation starter and get people excited about this new future," Noakesmith told The

## Escape-artist Missouri bear heads to Texas zoo with moat

**ST. LOUIS** (AP)—An escape-artist bear from Missouri is headed to a Texas zoo with a moat in hopes that it will put an end to his wandering.

The St. Louis Zoo cited the "specific and unique personality" of the Andean bear named Ben in announcing the move Tuesday. His soon-to-be home at the Gladys Porter Zoo near South Padre Island in Brownsville, Texas, has a long history of working with Andean bears. But it's still adding some extra security measures.

"We're confident it's going to be good for Ben," said Walter Dupree, the Texas zoo's curator of mammals.

Ben gained notoriety in February by busting out of his habitat twice.

The first time, the 4-year-old, 280-pound (127-kilogram) bear tore apart clips that attached stainless steel mesh to the frame of a door. But he was recaptured less than an hour later on a public path.

Zoo workers then added zip tie-like attachments made



This 2021 photo provided by the St. Louis Zoo shows the zoo's Andean bear named Ben.

of stainless steel that had 450 pounds (204 kilograms) of tensile strength. But Ben managed to escape through those about two weeks later. The zoo was open this time, but he was captured less than an hour later on a public path.

Ben now lives in a nonpublic area of the St. Louis Zoo,

where he can move indoors and out—and even splash in a pool—while he awaits his move.

"He's so fun, he's so playful—we would love to be able to keep him here," said Regina Mossotti, the St. Louis Zoo's vice president of animal care.

### OFFBEAT BRIEFS

#### Police search for tiger stolen from home in northern Mexico

**MEXICO CITY** (AP)—Northern Mexico has developed such a habit of exotic animals and violence, that people not only keep tigers as pets, they steal them. Prosecutors in the violent northern state of Sonora said Tuesday they are searching for a full-grown Bengal tiger named Baluma. They said the 5-year-old male tiger was stolen Monday from a home in the state capital, Hermosillo. They said the owners had the proper paperwork needed to keep the animal.

Prosecutors distributed photos of the big cat resting in its cage alongside a dog, hoping residents will phone police if they see the tiger. Mexico has long had a problem with people keeping—and occasionally losing control of—large cats, which are sometimes found at drug traffickers' residences and are occasionally seen wandering loose.

#### Zebra runs loose in Seoul before being taken back to zoo

**SEOUL, South Korea** (AP)—A young zebra walked, trotted, and galloped for hours in the busy streets of South Korea's capital before emergency workers tranquilized the animal and brought it back to a zoo. The zebra—a male named Sero that was born in the zoo in 2021—was in stable condition and being examined by veterinarians as of Thursday evening, said Choi Ye-ra, an official at the Children's Grand Park in Seoul. She said the zoo was investigating how the zebra managed to escape. She didn't immediately confirm media reports that the animal partially destroyed the wooden fencing surrounding its pen before busting out around 2:50 p.m.

#### 'Scream as loud as you can': 5 boys rescued from NYC tunnel

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Five mischievous boys had to be rescued after they crawled through a storm drain tunnel

in New York City and got lost, authorities said. In audio released by the fire department, 911 dispatchers work to pinpoint the boys' exact location and then tell them to scream once rescuers are close enough to hear. "Now you can scream as loud as you can," a dispatcher says. "They want you to scream and yell." The five boys, aged 11 and 12, crawled into a storm drain on Staten Island at about 6 p.m. Tuesday, fire department officials said at a news conference Wednesday. The boys walked about a quarter mile and then called 911 when they couldn't find their way back, officials said. "We're stuck in the sewer," one of the boys says on the recording. "You're stuck where?" a dispatcher responds. A second dispatcher says he is familiar with the area and tries to determine exactly where the boys are. "Once you went down, was the sewer left, right, straight—where was it?" the dispatcher asks. "I need you to guide me."

# Science & Technology

## Their stories were lost to slavery. Now DNA is writing them

By MADDIE BURAKOFF

AP SCIENCE WRITER

**CHARLESTON, S.C.** (AP)—In the 1700s, a boy was born into slavery in Colonial America. He spent his life working in the coastal city of Charleston, South Carolina. And when he died in middle age, he was buried alongside 35 other slaves.

That's the likely history that researchers have uncovered for the man—there's no written record for him or the others buried at the long-forgotten site. Their names have been lost, along with any details of their lives. But their stories are now being told through what was left behind: bones, teeth and, especially, DNA.

In recent decades, advances in DNA research have allowed scientists to use ancient remains and peer into the lives of long-dead people. In Charleston, that's meant tracing some of the African roots that were cut off by slavery.

"We're bringing their memory back to life," said Raquel Fleskes, an anthropologist at the University of Connecticut who studied the remains. "This is a way of restoring dignity to individuals that should've always had this dignity."

The Charleston project started a decade ago, when construction workers unearthed the remains beneath the grounds of the Gaillard Center, an arts venue in the city that was going through an expansion.

Dating back to the second half of the 18th century, the remains are believed to be mostly from enslaved people of African descent who lived nearby. A few of them were likely among the estimated 175,000 Africans brought through Charleston's port, a hub for the trans-Atlantic slave trade.

The city reburied the remains at the site, where a memorial fountain is planned. But with few recorded details available, community members were also interested in using science to learn more about the people, Fleskes said.

So, the Anson Street African Burial Ground Project was born, and researchers started looking for clues.



DeAndre Muhammad holds up plastic casts of his hands in a studio at the Gibbes Museum of Art in Charleston, S.C., on Thursday, Feb. 16, 2023.

Growing up in Puerto Rico, anthropologist Maria Nieves-Colon was taught that the Indigenous peoples of the islands were quickly wiped out by European colonization, and didn't pass on their genes to people on the island today. But after looking at ancient remains from the island in a 2020 study, Nieves-Colon found genetic links did exist between those Indigenous groups and modern-day Puerto Ricans.

Research like this shows "we need to think more critically about what was left in the historical record," said Nieves-Colon, who is now at the University of Minnesota.

■ ■ ■

While ancient DNA can be a powerful tool for uncovering history, it needs to be used with caution, researchers note, especially when it comes to vulnerable groups.

Unlike research on living subjects, work on recovered human remains doesn't require scientists to get consent, explained Krystal Tsosie, a geneticist at Arizona State University. And in the past, most researchers haven't consulted with groups like Native tribes



Cast hands made from local volunteers are displayed on a table in Charleston, S.C., Saturday, Feb. 18, 2023.

AP

or African descendants before studying the remains of possible ancestors.

But this kind of work does impact living communities and they should be part of the conversation, researchers said.

"In many ways, it's about power," Blakey said. "The right to tell your story."

In Charleston, project leaders asked community members for their permission before every step, Oubré said. The names of the 36 had been lost to history and the team gave them new ones—like Coosaw, Welela, Isi and Kuto—so they wouldn't be just numbers on a burial plot,

said Joanna Gilmore, director of research and interpretation with the Anson Street project.

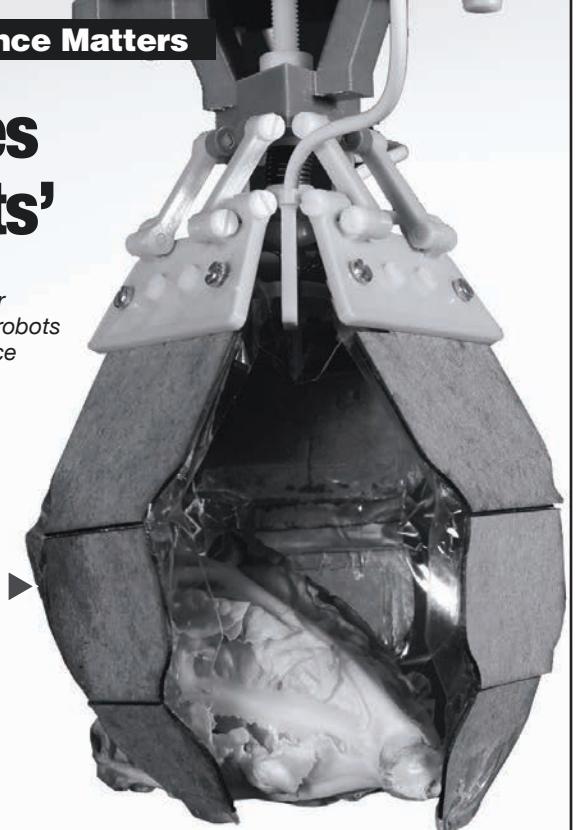
Now, the new memorial is set to honor the lives of these 36 individuals, as well as the thousands of enslaved people who helped build Charleston, project leaders said.

The memorial will be at the Gaillard Center, where a small plaque now marks the site where the remains were uncovered. It will include a fountain circled by pairs of bronze hands cast from current residents, and a base made of soil from other African burial grounds across the city, Gilmore explained.

### Science Matters

## Green muscles for 'soft robots'

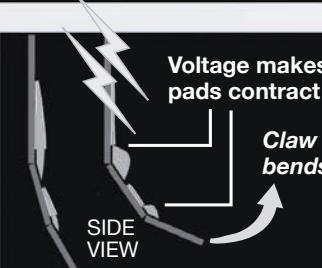
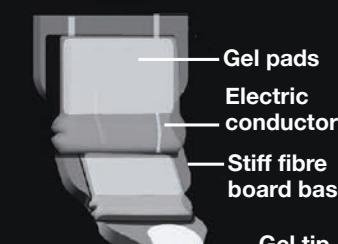
Researchers have devised electrically operated, biodegradable "muscles" for future "soft robots" that will make the robots more valuable because their parts, once worn out, do not clog landfills



**Soft robots** have non-rigid or semi-rigid parts made from organic or oil-based materials

Experimental robotic claw with soft, biodegradable "muscles" grips and lifts a head of lettuce

### Claw's muscles



### Biodegradable robot parts

These artificial muscles are based on gelatin, oil and bioplastics

After use, they can be disposed of in municipal compost bins, and they can fully biodegrade within six months

Typical future one-time uses would include medical operations, search-and-rescue missions and manipulating hazardous waste and materials

Source: Max Planck Institute for Intelligent Systems (Germany); Johannes Kepler University (Austria); University of Colorado Boulder (USA); Science Advances journal  
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service © 2023 TNS



Artist Stephen Hayes, at left, shows volunteers Jonathan Richardson and Arianne King-Comer how to properly hold their hands in a mold in Charleston, S.C., Saturday, Feb. 18, 2023.

AP

Artifacts from the site showed that the bodies were buried with care, explained Theodore Schurr, an anthropologist at the University of Pennsylvania who worked on the research. Some of them had beads in their hair or coins over their eyes. Minerals in their teeth showed only a few

# Life & Style

## Gwyneth Paltrow's ski collision trial spawns memes, intrigue

**PARK CITY, Utah** (AP)—When two skiers collided on a beginner run at an upscale Utah ski resort in 2016, no one could foresee that seven years later, the crash would become the subject of a closely watched celebrity trial.

But Gwyneth Paltrow's live-streamed trial over her colli-

sion with Terry Sanderson, a 76-year-old retired optometrist, in Park City has emerged as the biggest celebrity court case since actors Johnny Depp and Amber Heard faced off last year—spawning memes, sparking debate about the burden of fame, and making ski etiquette rules of who was

uphill and who had the right of way relevant beyond those who can afford resort chair-lift tickets.

As attorneys finished questioning witnesses Wednesday and prepared for closing arguments Thursday, here is a look back at highlights from the two-week trial:

### LIFESTYLES OF THE RICH AND THE FAMOUS

For seven days, attorneys have highlighted—and downplayed—Paltrow and Sanderson's extravagant lifestyles.

Sanderson's attorneys are asking for more than \$300,000 in damages, but the money at stake for both sides pales in

comparison to the typical legal costs of a multiyear lawsuit. Both sides have marshalled brigades of expert witnesses, including a biomechanical engineer and collision expert.

Paltrow's legal team has attempted to represent Sanderson as an angry, aging man who continued to travel inter-

nationally after the collision. They introduced photos into evidence of Sanderson camel riding in Morocco, trekking the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu in Peru, and taking a continent-wide loop through Europe with stops in the Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, France and Belgium.

## Brueghel work found in dim French TV room sells for \$845,000

**PARIS** (AP)—One of Flemish painter Pieter Brueghel the Younger's largest known works, whose discovery behind the television room door of a house in northern France amazed the art world, fetched 780,000 euros (\$845,000) at auction in Paris Tuesday.

The 17th century oil painting—which experts call “exceptional” and was long considered a fake by its owners—was discovered by chance in December collecting dust. An expert conducting an estimation request spotted something poking out past a door of the dim family house.

“I arrived in a small television room which was not very well lit. I started making my estimates in the living room and



The painting “Payment of the Yearly Dues”, also known as “The Peasants’ Lawyer” by Pieter Brueghel the Younger, estimated to be dating before 1618, is in display at the Drouot auction house in Paris, Monday, March 27, 2023.

## King Charles III makes world debut as tour starts in Germany

**BERLIN** (AP)—King Charles III arrived in Berlin on Wednesday for his first foreign trip as Britain’s monarch, hoping to improve the U.K.’s relations with the European Union and show he can win hearts and minds abroad, just as his mother did for seven decades.

Charles and Camilla, the queen consort, landed at Berlin’s government airport in

the early afternoon. The king, dressed in a black coat, and his wife, in a light blue coat and a feather-trimmed teal hat worn at a jaunty angle, paused at the top of their plane’s stairs to receive a 21-gun salute as two military jets performed a flyover.

The royal couple said in a joint statement, released on their official Twitter account, that it was a “great joy” to be able to develop

the “longstanding friendship between our two nations.”

An hour later, German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier and his wife, Elke Buedenbender, welcomed them with military honors at the German capital’s historic Brandenburg Gate.

Soldiers hoisted the British and German flags as the national anthems were played. Steinmeier and Charles then strolled

past the cheering, flag-waving crowd, shaking hands and chatting briefly with people.

Some took close-up pictures on their phones as Charles and Camilla approached, while others gave them flower bouquets. One woman handed Charles a gift bag. Journalists and security personnel trailed the royal couple and their German hosts as they made their way back to their motorcade.

turning around behind the door, there were two thirds of the painting visible,” Malo de Lussac of the auctioneers Daguerre Val de Loire, told The Associated Press. “And that’s when in fact I discovered the painting. It was a bit of a surprise.”

The family of the owners, who wished to remain anonymous, acquired the work in 1900, and had always called it

affectionately ‘The Brueghel,’ thinking it was fake. It was an ironic twist in their family lore that a work of such importance had been hiding in plain view.

The painting is believed to

have been painted between

1615 and 1617 and depicts

one of Brueghel the Younger’s common themes “The Village

Lawyer”—a bustling legal office in a rural community.

## Melissa Joan Hart says she helped ‘tiny kids’ flee shooting

Actor Melissa Joan Hart said she and her husband helped a class of kindergartners that was fleeing the Nashville school shooting earlier this week.

Hart said in a video posted on Instagram Tuesday that her children attend a school next to the private Christian Covenant School. She said she and her husband had been headed to her kids’ school conferences Monday when they helped some students get away from the shooting that killed six people.

“We helped a class of kindergartners across a busy highway,” she said, her voice breaking, “that were climbing out of the woods—that were trying to, um, escape

the shooter situation at their school. So we helped all these tiny little kids cross the road and get their teachers over there, and we helped a mom reunite with her children.”

Hart said she had moved to Nashville from Connecticut and that her kids had attended a school near Sandy Hook Elementary when 26 children were shot and killed there in 2012.

“This is our second experience with a school shooting with our kids being in close proximity. Luckily we are all OK,” she said.

She said she recorded the video Monday, but it was too raw to post that day.

“I don’t know what to say anymore,” she said. “Enough is enough.”

## Daughter returns to nest, refuses to live in reality

**D**EAR ABBY: My 28-year-old daughter moved back home when COVID hit. She works as an influencer and also has a part-time job as a content creator. She doesn’t pay bills. My husband doesn’t want her to pay rent, etc. I feel it’s important for her to do so. She does pay for her groceries and gas.

She stays in her room day and night. She used to go out with friends, but now doesn’t do anything. She says she has cyber friends. We have asked her to come out with us at times, but she refuses. Another problem is, she hasn’t gone to the doctor or dentist in a very long time. I talked with her about it, and she blamed me for not taking her. I offered to go with her, but she doesn’t do anything about it.

My husband doesn’t think there is a problem, but I feel there is. I feel we have enabled her, although we didn’t mean to. Should we be charging her rent? How do we get her to become more social? How do we get her the right help so she can move forward in life?

CONCERNED MOM IN RHODE ISLAND

can understand what is going on, because your daughter appears to have some emotional issues. Her “world” may be on the web, but unless she can find one on terra firma, expect her to be under your roof forever.

■■■■

**DEAR ABBY:** I’ve been in a relationship with my partner (we’re both male) for more than four years. He argues nonstop about everything from politics to why the squirrel outside ran across the street. Daily, I hear him complain about everything, from the news to the grocery list, laundry, you name it.

A friend of mine will be in town this weekend. He invited my partner and me to a football game. When I shared this with my partner, he immediately declined, complained about the invite and said he’d rather stay home. I’ve had it up to here with his negativity, and I have decided to end this relationship.

I’m not happy with this, and I have decided that if my out-of-town friend wants me to start a new life with him, I would be all for it. I’d rather be happy and not have to deal with this. Life is too short. Your thoughts?

DONE WITH IT IN COLORADO

**DEAR DONE:** If you are not happy with your partner, level with him about it. If counseling would improve things, see if he’s willing to give it a try. If not, consult an attorney who specializes in family law and proceed with ending the union.

## DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

A word of caution, however, and I cannot stress this too strongly: You implied that you would like to be romantically involved with the friend who invited you to that football game. JUMPING INTO ANOTHER RELATIONSHIP BEFORE YOU HAVE RECOVERED FROM THIS ONE WOULD BE A HUGE MISTAKE. Give yourself time to detoxify. Meet people. Date around. You will have plenty of fun if you do, and less of a chance for another failed relationship.

■■■■

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in “The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It.” To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR CONCERNED MOM: A step in the right direction would be for your husband to take his head out of the sand and admit that his daughter may have a problem. The next step would be to have a frank talk with her and tell her that if she is going to continue living with you, she must agree to have medical and dental checkups. Go with her so you



# Jrue Holiday scores career-high 51 points, Bucks beat Pacers



**INDIANAPOLIS** (AP)—Jrue Holiday scored a career-high 51 points, Giannis Antetokounmpo had 38 points in a triple-double and the NBA-leading Milwaukee Bucks beat the Indiana Pacers 149-136 on Wednesday night.

Antetokounmpo added 17 rebounds and 12 assists to help the Bucks improve to 55-21. The two-time NBA MVP was an assist shy of a triple-double at halftime with 20 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists. He returned after sitting out Monday night in a victory at Detroit because of a sore knee.

Holiday had 18 points in the third quarter, when the Bucks scored a season-high 46 points to build a 12-point lead. He was 20 of 30 from the field with three 3-pointers and hit 8 of 10 free throws. His previous best was 40 points in an overtime victory over visiting Boston on Feb. 14.

Brook Lopez added 21 points for the Bucks.

Rookie Benedict Mathurin led Indiana—playing without its top three scorers—with 29 points. Aaron Nesmith had 22 and Jordan Nwora 18. Jalen Smith fouled out early in the fourth with 17. Rookie Andrew Nembhard had 15 points and 15 rebounds.

## KINGS 120, TRAIL BLAZERS 80

**PORTRLAND, Ore.** (AP)—De'Aaron Fox scored 18 points and Sacramento beat Portland to wrap up its first playoff berth since 2006.

The 16-year playoff drought was the longest in NBA history and the longest active postseason dry spell among teams in the NBA, NFL, NHL and Major League Baseball.

Kings rookie Keegan Murray made his 188th 3-pointer

of the season with 6:44 to go in the third quarter to set the NBA record, passing Donovan Mitchell's mark of 187 set in 2017-18. Murray finished with 13 points.

Rookie Shaedon Sharpe had 30 points for Portland. The Blazers were eliminated from playoff contention.

## SUNS 107, TIMBERWOLVES 100

**PHOENIX** (AP)—Devin Booker scored 29 points, Kevin Durant had 16 points and eight rebounds in his home debut and Phoenix beat Minnesota for its third straight victory.

Durant — playing in his first home game with the Suns since being traded from the Brooklyn Nets in February — missed his first six shots from the field before hitting a turnaround mid-range jumper midway through the second quarter. He finished 5 of 18, hitting a couple of important 3-pointers early in the fourth quarter.

Durant played for the first time since March 5. He was warming up for his expected first home game with the Suns three days later when he sprained his left ankle during pregame preparation. The injury cost him 10 games. The Suns are 4-0 with Durant in the lineup.

Anthony Edwards led Minnesota with 31 points. Karl-Anthony Towns added 25. The Timberwolves had a four-game winning streak snapped.

## LAKERS 121, BULLS 110

**CHICAGO** (AP)—LeBron James scored 25 points in his return to the starting lineup and Los Angeles beat Chicago.

James also had seven rebounds and four assists in 31 minutes in his second game back after he was sidelined for



Milwaukee Bucks guard Jrue Holiday (21) shoots over Indiana Pacers guard T.J. McConnell (9) during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Indianapolis, Wednesday, March 29, 2023. AP

a month because of a torn tendon in his right foot. The four-time MVP scored 19 points Sunday in a 118-108 loss to Chicago in just his second appearance as a reserve in his 20-year NBA career.

Fighting for playoff positioning in the Western Conference, Los Angeles (38-38) kicked off a five-game trip with its fourth win in five games overall. Anthony Davis had 38 points and 10 rebounds in his hometown, and D'Angelo Russell scored 17 points.

Nikola Vucevic had 29 points and 12 rebounds for Chicago in its second straight loss.

## 76ERS 116, MAVERICKS 108

**PHILADELPHIA** (AP)—Joel Embiid had 25 points and nine rebounds, James Harden added 15 points and 12 assists and Philadelphia beat Dallas.

Embiid flashed his MVP credentials when he powered the Sixers back in the fourth against Luka Doncic and the

Mavs. Embiid hit a 3-pointer to tie it at 103 and followed with a 16-footer the next time down for what ended up the winning basket.

Doncic had 24 points, 10 rebounds and eight assists. Kyrie Irving scored 23 points for the Mavericks.

Tyrese Maxey added 22 points to help the 76ers snap a three-game losing streak. They returned from a 1-3 trip.

## CLIPPERS 141, GRIZZLIES 132

**MEMPHIS, Tenn.** (AP)—Russell Westbrook had a season-high 36 points, Robert Covington also had a season best with 27 points and Los Angeles beat Memphis to open a two-game set.

The teams—both short-handed Wednesday—will meet again Friday night in Memphis. Westbrook made five 3-pointers without a miss and had 10 assists. Covington was 9 of 10 from the field, making all seven of his 3-point attempts.

Bones Hyland added 20

points for Los Angles, including 12 in the fourth quarter as the Clippers pulled away in the final seven minutes.

Ja Morant led the Grizzlies with 36 points and nine assists. Dillon Brooks added 30 points as all five Memphis starters finished in double figures. The Grizzlies had won seven in a row and 12 straight at home.

## JAZZ 128, SPURS 117

**SAN ANTONIO** (AP)—Talen Horton-Tucker scored a career-high 41 points and Utah beat the Spurs in what could have been coach Gregg Popovich's final game in San Antonio.

Utah snapped a four-game skid to keep its fading playoff hopes alive. But San Antonio (19-57) lost its fifth straight in its worst season since 1997, the year it drafted Tim Duncan with the No. 1 overall pick.

Popovich has given no indication that he is retiring or even that he will return for his 28th season. The annual speculation has intensified, though, especially since the

74-year-old coach allowed his expected induction this summer into the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame after years of refusing to even be nominated. The Spurs have two home games remaining, but those will be played 73 miles away in Austin's new Moody Center.

Rookie Malaki Branham led San Antonio with 21 points.

## KNICKS 101, HEAT 92

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Immanuel Quickley scored 24 points, Quentin Grimes had 23 and New York moved closer to a postseason berth with a victory night that sent Miami closer to the play-in tournament.

The Knicks overcame the loss of Julius Randle to a sprained left ankle to win their second straight and remained firmly in fifth place in the Eastern Conference. They are 2 1/2 games ahead of Brooklyn four games ahead of the seventh-place Heat.

Gabe Vincent scored 21 points for Miami.

## NETS 123, ROCKETS 114

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Cam Johnson had 31 points, Mikal Bridges scored 12 of his 27 in the fourth quarter and Brooklyn rallied to beat Houston.

Johnson and Bridges came over together from Phoenix in the trade that sent Kevin Durant to the Suns. Durant finally made his home debut for Phoenix on Wednesday night.

Nic Claxton added 18 points and 10 rebounds for Brooklyn.

Kevin Porter Jr. had 31 points, nine rebounds and six assists for Houston. The Rockets have lost seven in a row.

## THUNDER 107, PISTONS 106

**OKLAHOMA CITY** (AP)—Rookie Jalen Williams' putback with less than a second remaining lifted Oklahoma City past Detroit.

The pressure was on for the Thunder, who entered the night two games under .500 and hanging on to the final Western Conference play-in spot. Oklahoma City guard Shai Gilgeous-Alexander—the league's No. 4 scorer with 31.3 points per game—was out with a sprained ankle for the second straight game.

Williams had 27 points, eight rebounds six assists—and the tip-in on Josh Giddey's miss in the closing seconds. Lu Dort scored 20 points,

Jaden Ivey had 24 for Detroit. The Pistons have the NBA's worst record and have lost seven straight and 18 of 19.

# NBA, players still talking about new deal as deadline looms

**NEW YORK** (AP)—NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said Wednesday he is hopeful that a new collective bargaining agreement between the league and its players can get done by the end of this week, though he stopped short of predicting that a deal would actually get struck.

"I think everyone understands what's at stake," Silver said.

The league and the National Basketball Players Association face a midnight Friday deadline for either side to decide that they will opt out of the deal and end the current CBA on June 30. That opt-out deadline already has been extended twice, and Silver said the NBA's current plan is to

exercise that option if there is no deal by Friday night.

"I certainly can foresee one getting done and I hope we do get one done," Silver said at the conclusion of a two-day meeting of the league's Board of Governors. "It's just because, honestly, I'm only one side of the negotiation, it's difficult for me to place odds on whether or not that's going to happen."

NBPA Executive Director Tamika Tremaglio said the players do not intend to opt out if Friday's deadline passes without a deal.

"The March 31st deadline is an important benchmark, and we are doing everything in our power to reach an agreement with the league," Tremaglio

said. "If we don't have a deal and the league decides to opt out, it will be disappointing considering all the work both sides have put into the negotiations, and the fair nature of our requests. As far as our fans are concerned, it will be business as usual. Games will continue uninterrupted."

Both sides have said throughout this process—and in past labor talks—that they do not intend to negotiate or discuss specifics publicly.

The sides have been talking about a new CBA for more than a year, and Silver said he expected negotiations to resume Wednesday night. And if Friday passes without a deal, it wouldn't be dire immediately because the sides

still will have three months to get something done before the current CBA expires.

The opt-outs were put in place to avoid the drama of having talks go right up until the end of a deal, which would increase the odds of a work stoppage.

"Still a lot to go in the next few days. There's just something about collective bargaining where deadlines are necessary and seemingly sides tend to hold their best positions until the very end," Silver said. "So, my sense is this will go down to the very end."

The league has made clear that it wants some changes to the current CBA and has been in discussions with the union on matters such as an upper

spending limit, returning to a plan where players can jump to the draft directly from high school and enacting a minimum number of games played in order to be qualified for season-ending awards.

"Every issue seemingly seems related to every other issue," Silver said. "If you line up these 10 issues, you sort of go 80% of the way there on each issue and everybody's holding their last move to say: 'Well, OK, maybe I'm willing to do that, but I'm going wait to see what you're going to do on those three issues. And if you make those moves on those three issues, then I'll feel a little bit more comfortable.' I mean, people are constantly trading things."

# MLB opening day offers clocks, shift bans, Ohtani and Judge

By BEN WALKER

AP BASEBALL WRITER

 A major shift in how Major League Baseball is played. About time, too.

Aaron Judge aiming at his own home run record, Shohei Ohtani trending with every pitch and swing, Dusty Baker trying to win another World Series ring.

All-Stars in different spots, a new scheduling concept featuring each team facing all 29 opponents.

If it sounds like these plot lines are from a movie — “Everything Everywhere All at Once” comes to mind — it’s true.

Opening day is Thursday and the full slate includes games at Dodger Stadium, Fenway Park, Wrigley Field and Yankee Stadium. And good news for fans—there’s no snow in the forecast at any of them.

## TICK-TOCK

Manny Machado drew the first pitch clock violation in spring training and it was nuisance. A game between the Braves and Red Sox ended on a clock call and it was a novelty.

Chances are, if Max Scherzer or Nolan Arenado or some other intense star gets timed out in a key spot, it could go nuclear.

But MLB realized it had to do something to cut all the dead periods when absolutely nothing was happening. Well, except for hitters adjusting their batting gloves or pitchers pawing at the rubber. So with games routinely dragging on for more than three hours, the slowdown is getting sped up.

The sport that never had a



AP

Los Angeles Angels' Shohei Ohtani runs to first as he flies out during the sixth inning of a pre-season baseball game against the Los Angeles Dodgers Sunday, March 26, 2023, in Los Angeles.

clock suddenly has them all over the park. Gerrit Cole, Max Fried and the rest of the pitchers get 15 seconds to throw with nobody on base, 20 seconds with runners on. Vladimir Guerrero Jr., Mookie Betts and the hitters need to be ready.

The early returns were good, spring training games lasted nearly a half-hour less this year. But remember, that was in Clearwater, Tempe and Lakeland—it might be a lot different, especially early in the season, when umpires begin pointing to their wrists at Busch Stadium, Camden Yards and Petco Park.

## VERY SHIFTY

NL home run champ Kyle Schwarber, 2020 World Series MVP Corey Seager and a bevy of left-handed boppers should benefit hugely

by this rule change. Because from now on, those pull hitters won’t face a wall of three infielders on the right side.

Defensive shifts dominated the game in recent years, a big reason why batting averages plummeted so sharply. José Ramírez, Cody Bellinger and other lefties increasingly found themselves being thrown out from shallow-to-medium right field.

No longer. Realizing that shifts were a winning strategy on the field but a losing proposition with fans, MLB banned them. These days, two infielders must be standing on each side of second base. And no playing deep on the grass to rob hits, either—Dansby Swanson, Jeremy Peña and other infielders need to be on the dirt.

One likely effect: With more grounders sneaking through for singles, look for

the number of no-hitters and near-gems to drop.

## SHO OR GO?

All eyes will be on Shohei Ohtani when he starts for the Los Angeles Angels on opening day at Oakland. Here’s what fans will really watch: Where will the two-way sensation wind up?

Quite possibly the most popular and talented player on the planet, Ohtani clinched the World Baseball Classic for Japan and earned the MVP trophy by striking out Angels teammate Mike Trout.

Ohtani can become a free agent after this year. He’s never reached the postseason since joining the Halos in 2018—Trout, a three-time MVP, has never won a single playoff game, but that’s another matter.

At 28, it’s hard to imagine

Ohtani sticking around Anaheim after yet another lost season. If they don’t start winning soon, the Angels can either trade him to a very ambitious team or risk letting him walk away for nothing.

## STAR SCRAMBLE

Two-time Cy Young Award winner Jacob deGrom bolted New York for a greener field in Texas. Three-time Cy Young winner Justin Verlander, a model of power pitching, now

on the mound for the Mets.

Trea Turner smoothly slid over to join pal Bryce Harper on the Phillies. Xander Bogaerts livened up a San Diego lineup that already included sluggers Manny Machado, Juan Soto and the suspended Fernando Tatis Jr.

AL batting champion Luis Arraez was traded from Minnesota to Miami and former

MVP José Abreu signed with the World Series champion Houston Astros.

Maybe the most intriguing newcomer: Red Sox outfielder Masataka Yoshida. He powered Japan in the WBC and was penciled into the Boston cleanup spot even before his major league debut.

## EXTRA BAGGAGE

We get it: Stolen bases are for suckers, modern metrics show they’re not worth the gamble. Miami’s Jon Berti stole 41 last season and topped the majors; it was the lowest total for the MLB leader since 1963, when Maury Wills and Luis Aparicio each swiped 40.

Execs hope bigger bases that are 18-inch squares, up from 15-inch squares, will help entice more speedsters to try. It cuts down the distance between the bags by a few inches. They “look like a pizza box,” Red Sox manager Alex Cora said. Pitchers also will be limited in how many pickoff throws they can make.

Note to MLB: If you really want to get Randy Arozarena, Bobby Witt Jr. and Ronald Acuña Jr. on the run, see Andrés Giménez and others drop down more surprise bunts, open up hitting lanes and just increase overall offense, here’s a better idea—shorten the bases to 88 feet.

The NFL spruced up its game by moving back the extra-point line, making the PAT a more competitive play and prompting coaches to go for two. The NBA overhauled its sport way back by adding the 3-point arc. We know baseball has its hallowed distances — 90 feet and 60 feet, 6 inches — but they don’t have to stay that way forever, especially not with younger audiences eager for more action.

on radio broadcasts where the analyst simply is not going to have time to talk,” he said. “I think that’s going to be a different vibe, baseball on the radio this year.”

Kay also noted that the Kay-Rod Cast, which he does with Alex Rodriguez, usually had guests on for 1 1/2 innings last season, but that might change if the innings are shorter.

Sometimes though, not talking is not a bad thing. ESPN “Sunday Night Baseball” analyst Eduardo Perez acknowledged that there’s a running joke in which the best innings are ones when the analysts never talk — and said there might be some truth to it.

“If you want to still broadcast Major League Baseball, you better adapt, or you’ll become a dinosaur,” Hamilton said. “The game will dictate whether or not you can get those stories and stats in.

## MLB broadcasters adapting to faster pace under new rules

“I think over the years I’ve been critical of a lot of things Major League Baseball has done, but in this case, I think they’ve got it right.”

With only 30 seconds between batters and 15-20 seconds between pitches, announcers have had to learn where to focus their view between pitches so they don’t miss anything.

To say the quick pace affects all elements would be an understatement. Brown, who said he is a notorious water drinker, has started to chew on hard candy to keep his mouth from drying up—a trick he learned from Scully.

Before joining the Arizona Diamondbacks last season, Chris Garagiola did games for Pensacola in the Double-A Southern League, which had a pitch clock and limited

infield shifts. But even with that experience, Garagiola is still learning the best way to get the requisite promotional reads during games.

Garagiola said last season he would do some during the middle of an at-bat if the game was lagging, but now he is trying to do them coming out of a break between innings or immediately after an out.

Many worry the new rules will take away the storytelling and folksy nature of calling baseball on the radio. Then again, Scully thrived in an age when games were quicker, too — the average time of big league games never exceeded 2 hours, 40 minutes until 1982. The average time has been above three hours since 2012, including 3:10 last season.

Cleveland Guardians radio broadcaster Tom Hamilton

said he paid too much attention to the clock during the first week of spring training, to the point where he was missing what happened in the field. Hamilton hopes the one adjustment that umpires can make is being more demonstrative on pitch clock violations and whether it is on the pitcher or batter.

“You have to pop up your head in a hurry after writing something down, or you miss something. I’ve gotten burned on that a couple of times,” said Hamilton, who has done radio for Cleveland since 1990. “You’ve got to be a lot more judicious with your words and get in and out of things quicker because it’s amazing how quickly an inning of baseball can go by right now.”

Hamilton said the last three innings of baseball games had

become like the final 2 minutes of some basketball games because of how things tended to grind to a halt.

“I would have a hard time finding a group of people that enjoyed watching nothing. We’re saving 25-26 minutes of nothing,” Garagiola said. “I did the math over a whole season, which adds up to under 80 hours. I mean, just three full days of nothing.”

Michael Kay — who does Yankees games and is part of ESPN’s KayRod Cast on “Sunday Night Baseball” — still thinks the changes will significantly impact radio more than television.

“Maybe you won’t be able to see eight replays on a simple ground ball to short because there’s not much time between batters, but I think it’s going to have a big impact

# Santos, Guam's Bautista and Elwell bags gold

By LEIGH GASES  
leigh\_gases@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

**CNMI** WEIGHTLIFTING Raymond Santos and Guam's David Bautista and Ethan Elwell bagged gold medals in their respective divisions in the very competitive Marianas Cup 2023 weightlifting competition last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Overall in the men's open, CNMI collected four gold medals, while Guam brought home two. In the youth/junior division, two gold medals went to CNMI and three went to Guam.

Santos was the lone entry of the 67-kg weight class and had a total weight lifted of 215 kg. His best snatch was 95 kg and his best clean & jerk was 120 kg.

In the 81-kg division, Guam's David Bautista bested the CNMI's Emmanuel Aquino and Raymond Olopai. Bautista won gold after a best snatch lift of 105 kg, best clean & jerk of 135 kg, and a total weight lifted of 240 kg.

Second was Aquino with a total weight lifted of 204 kg. His best snatch was 90 kg and his best clean & jerk was 114 kg. Olopai came in third place with his overall weight lifted of 194 kg. Ninety kg was his best snatch, while 104 kg was his best clean & jerk.

For Ethan Elwell, he topped the 96-kg weight class, with a total weight lifted of 275 kg. His best snatch was 130 kg and his best clean & jerk was 145 kg.

In the male youth/junior

## » Youth excel in Marianas Cup



LEIGH GASES

From left, the CNMI's Emmanuelle Aquino, Guam's David Bautista, and the CNMI's Raymond Olopai during the awards ceremony of the Marianas Cup weightlifting competition last Saturday.



LEIGH GASES

From left, the CNMI's Aiden Gimed, the CNMI's Jaden Andrew, and Guam's Malachi Lujan during the awards ceremony of the youth/junior divisions in the Marianas Cup weightlifting competition last Saturday.

divisions, the CNMI and Guam accumulated three gold medals each.

The 61-kg weight class was topped by Guam's Duena

Danford with a snatch of 60 kg and clean & jerk of 85 kg for a total weight of 145 kg.

The silver medalist was the CNMI's Jaden Andrew

"The NMIFA Women's Committee is very proud of the exceptional growth in numbers, development and excitement for women's football in our community! As the women's committee continues to work diligently in coordinating and managing different activities and leagues to support this growth, we are grateful for the leadership of NMIFA president Jerry Tan, who champions this growth and support of women's football, the Asian Football Confederation, FA's ex-co, and all club officers and coaches that continue to support this platform for Women

to build strong camaraderie and friendships, while making strides in improving our overall health."

In an email to NMIFA, AFC president Shaikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa said, "There is no denying that women's football in Asia has made giant strides on the global stage in recent years. From our women's national teams to more women entering the sport in leadership roles, their contributions have been pivotal in shaping Asian football and taking it forward."

with a snatch of 64 kg and clean & jerk of 79 kg for a total weight of 143 kg.

In the junior 61 kg division, Guam's Ezekiel Cabacang won gold with a snatch of 90kg and clean & jerk of 110kg for a total weight of 200 kg.

Gold and silver in the youth/junior 73-kg weight class was Guam's Malachi Lujan with a snatch of 55 kg and clean & jerk of 76 kg for a total weight of 131 kg.

In the junior 73-kg weight class, the CNMI's Aiden Gimed won gold with a snatch of 66 kg and clean & jerk of 77 kg for a total weight of 143 kg.

Joseph Pangelinan completed the CNMI's gold rush as he bagged gold for the youth and/junior divisions with a snatch of 83 kg and clean & jerk of 102 kg for a total weight of 185 kg.

For Santos, he said this time around, his diet was on point thanks to Lone Fox. Though this time he did not break any personal bests, he was glad he did not "bomb out." He added that Angel [San Nicolas] helped him out during his warmups.

As for the postponement of the Micronesian Games, he said "I guess we have more time to train. I will continue training and trying my best to get stronger while dropping my body weight. Staying motivated and not lazy has always been a challenge for me. So we will try and stay on course with training."

For 33-year-old Bautista, competing here was fun and he also made new friends. "I

"Thanks to the unity and commitment of our Member Associations (MAs) and Regional Associations (RAs), the women's game in Asia has achieved phenomenal success in the past year. On the field, the performance of the women's national teams three AFC Communications MESSAGE and clubs has been a shining example of the tireless efforts of the MAs and RAs in enhancing the standards of professional women's football in Asia."

"As we celebrate the history Asian women are scripting, let us also look forward to the many new chapters that we will write together in the firm assurance that the AFC will always work in close partnership with all of you to usher in a new era for the women's game," he said. "On behalf of the entire AFC family, I wish all women in our MAs and RAs, a very happy International Women's Day and a memorable AFC Women's Football Day 2023."

came here for the cohesion and working together with Saipan because I want this competition to be a big thing

## Yumul tops Mini ATV Class



TISHA FERRER

Franchesca Yumul in action in the Mini ATV Class of the March 2023 Monster Energy Point Series Race last March 18 at the Cowtown Race Track.

By MARK RABAGO  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Franchesca Yumul ruled the roost in the Mini ATV Class of the March 2023 Monster Energy Point Series Race last March 18 at the Cowtown Race Track.

Yumul topped the division with 47 points, followed by Kimason Cabrera and Anella Igitol with 45 points and 22 points, respectively.

"To win the Mini ATV class felt exciting but underwhelming since I knew I could've pushed myself further. My secret to winning is to have confidence in yourself and know you can always be your best self when out on the track," said the 14-year-old student from Marianas High School.

## Little League meeting tomorrow



Saipan Little League Baseball, Inc. vice president A.J. Murig is calling all

managers, coaches, volunteers, parents, and interested individuals to attend a general membership meeting tomorrow, April 1, at the Minachom Attao Pavilion, 10am. (PR)

With Tan, Apelo, and Andrew earning the February honors, they are now qualified for the NMSA yearly awards in their respective categories. The NMSA also awards Female Student Athlete of the Month and Team of the Month and recognizes the top performer of the year in its annual awards banquet. Last month, Isaiah Alekseenko and Zhimin Jin were named 2022 Student Athletes of the Year, while Tan, tennis' Colin Sinclair and weightlifting's Angel San Nicolas, David Barnhouse, Raymond Santos, Jason Limes, and Joey Colisao took the Athletes of the Year plums. The NMSA baseball, tennis, and weightlifting teams were the Team of the Year.

NMSA-member federations nominate candidates for the monthly awards and they also select the winners per category. (PR)

in Micronesia." "I look forward to many future competitions and seeing the youth come up," he said.

Results of the women's division will be posted in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.

## NMIFA

From Page 28

Novice B aged 30-and-up was won by SFC Longanisa PRIDE Rice, outscoring 13 teams. They shut out Matansa Latte, 1-0.

And in Novice A aged 16-29, MPU Turf Queens were the queens, eliminating five other teams. They defeated MFC Manta Rays, 2-1.

NMIFA Executive Committee member Catherine Attao shared a post that said she is proud of the growth of women's football in the CNMI.

## NEW

From Page 28

game that play-date saw Alii balance its record to 1-1 after turning back The Game, 81-71. The Game dropped to 1-1.

## First Game

OI'Aces 106 – F. Pelisamen 30, B. Pelisamen 21,

Santos 13, Mendiola 12, B. Joab 7, D. Joab 6, Libuw 6, Rangamar 6, Renguil 5.  
**RNC Construction 74** – R. Rueda 25, Bacuyag 12, Alfonso 8, Odicata 8, J. Rueda 7, Jumaquio 6, Tagle 4, Laoyon 4.  
**Scoring by quarters:** 34-17, 57-32, 89-50, 106-74.

**Second Game**  
**New Chang Ming Market 84** – Deleon Guerrero 21, Aranda 19, Castro 11, Pastrana 8, Flores 6, Quan 5, Standish 5, Santos 3, Palacios 2.  
**Puerto Rico Bento 78** – Santos 29, Bayking 21, Mintac 16, Forando 10, Ibe 2.  
**Scoring by quarters:** 29-22, 44-41, 71-63, 84-78.

# FMS teams notch wins in boys hoops

By LEIGH GASES  
leigh\_gases@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

  
Francisco M. Sablan Middle School varsity and junior varsity teams stormed the courts and notched wins in the IT&E Interscholastic Boys Middle School Basketball League 2022-2023 on Wednesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The Napu Riders JV team pummeled the Mount Carmel School Knights in a lopsided, 38-6 win, while the varsity team sailed past neighboring Hopwood Middle School, 32-20.

Keith Agulto commanded the ball from the get-go and scored the first 4 points for FMS. All the while, the Knights were still figuring out their way through the court. The first half came and went and the Knights only had one field goal made by Russel De



Belen, for an 18-point deficit. Agulto ended up with 14 markers, while teammates Jon

Dane Rebuenog and Kyler Laniyo took turns at the basket for 8 points apiece.

LEIGH GASES

Francisco M. Sablan Middle School's Aiden Gimed goes for a layup during their first junior varsity game against DanDan Middle School on Monday in the IT&E Interscholastic Boys Middle School Basketball League 2022-2023 at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Only Donald Tagabuel and Victor Neil Santos put up 4 more points for the Knights for a huge 6-38 loss.

The JV team has now won two of its games with their first win against DanDan Middle School on Monday.

For the varsity team, the Hilitais gave them a run for their money as the first half was a close 15-10 game in favor of the Napu Riders.

A 3-point shot resounded from FMS' Dany Defang to start the game, with HMS' Leon Galarse mirroring him a few shots later. The Napu Riders took turns at the net with the Hilitais in tow but gained traction right before the half-time buzzer.

Napu Riders' Jared Mahahane, Jairus Pangelinan, and Giovanni Camacho had 4 markers each, rotating the ball to each other in the sec-

ond half, outpacing the tiring Hilitais.

A couple of blocking fouls called against the Napu Riders allowed Dwayne Tabhan to score, with a follow up shot from teammate Galarse.

However, FMS held onto the lead and ended the game with a 2-pointer from Leon Duenas right before a free throw by Peyton Basa.

Results of the other varsity games will be posted in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.

**FMS JV 38** – Keith Agulto 14, Rebuenog 8, Laniyo 8, Camacho 4, Navarro 2, John 2.

**MCS JV 6** – Santos 3, De Belen 2, Tagabuel 1.

**Scoring by halves:** 20-2; 38-6.

**FMS 32** – Basa 9, Manahane, Pangelinan, and Camacho 4, Defang 3, Lucero 2.

**HMS 20** – Galarse 7, Garcia 6, Tabhan 5, Canoy 2.

**Scoring by halves:** 15-10; 32-20.

## 8 boats take part in Rota derby



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MV OJ Boy of captain Irvin Taimanaoc topped wahoo category of the 5th Annual Luta Friendly Fishing Derby held last Friday.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MV Niah of captain Dave Santos topped the mahi-mahi category of the 5th Annual Luta Friendly Fishing Derby held last Friday.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MV Puedi Suete of captain Ignacio Lizama Jr. topped the yellowfin tuna category of the 5th Annual Luta Friendly Fishing Derby held last Friday.

By MARK RABAGO  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

A total of eight boats took part in Friendly Fishing Club's 5th Annual Luta Friendly Fishing Derby held last Friday in the waters off the CNMI's southernmost chain.

The derby, which was held in honor of the late Vicente Mendiola Calvo, had three catego-

ries—wahoo, mahi-mahi, and yellowfin tuna.

The wahoo category was won by MV OJ Boy after the Irvin Taimanao-skipped boat caught a 17.5-lb fish. Second place went to MV Ben Senior with Vicente Atalig at the helm after reeling in a fish weighing 16.5 lbs.

MV Niah of captain Dave Santos topped the mahi-mahi

category after landing a 15-pounder. Santos is a resident of Rota but is also out of Guam.

Runner-up was MV Puedi Suete of skipper Ignacio Lizama Jr. after they caught a 14.5-lb mahi-mahi, while third place was captain Jim Atalig and co-captain Jim M. Atalig Jr., and Tyron Pinaula aboard their MV Chamorrita. They hooked mahi-mahi that weighed 14 lbs.

In the yellowfin tuna category, first place was MV Puedi Suete with its catch of 17 lbs, followed by second place MV Julianne and captain David Quevas and their 8-lb fish.

The 5th Annual Luta Friendly Fishing Derby was held in honor of Cepeda, president and owner of derby main sponsor Calvo Enterprises. He also was a former Senate president of the CNMI Senate and councilman of Rota.

Aside from Calvo Enterprises, the event was also made possible by the sponsorship of Sinapalo Safeway, Francisco and Ofelia Atalig, S&Y Corp., A-Heart Retail's Juan Pan Guerrero, the Rota leadership, the Rota Mayor's Office, 19th RMC, Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, DPS-Boating Safety, Department of Lands and Natural Resources, and Division of Fish and Wildlife.

Friendly Fishing Club also congratulated the winners and thanked all the participants of this year's event. The organization also extended their gratitude to derby officials, namely club president Jim Atalig, vice president Tillie Taimanao, treasurer Tina Atalig, and secretary Pualani Taisacan.

## Over 140 players to compete in badminton season opener



The Northern Marianas Badminton Association is opening its 2023 season with a bang as more than 140 players, including those from Guam and Tinian, will be competing in the Tan Holdings Cup.

The tournament, which Tan Holdings is sponsoring as part of its 50th anniversary celebration of serving the Micronesian region, kicked off with preliminary matches Thursday night and will have its opening ceremony today, Friday, at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. More than 100 players from Saipan will be joined by 16 delegates from Guam and 12 from Tinian in the four-day competition that will feature singles and doubles matches in the U15, U19, Open, and 45-and-above divisions. The tournament has 220 entries in the four divisions in the singles and doubles events.

"This is our first tournament of the season outside the interscholastic league and we are very excited to have this huge turnout, which has never happened in the history of badminton in the NMI. After our successful hosting of the Northern Marianas Pacific Games 2022 and the launching of our interscholastic program, it's really great to see how many individuals have shown interest in our program," NMBA president Merlie Tolentino said.

Of the more than 140 individuals, nearly half of them are part of the interscholastic league, as these young players are competing not just in the U15 and U19 age groups, but also in the open division.

"What a way to open our season with both our young



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
A Tinian High School player gets ready to serve during the Take-Care Interscholastic Badminton League last month. Tinian players are among the more than 140 individuals who will compete in the Northern Marianas Badminton Association-sanctioned Tan Holdings Cup that will kick off this Thursday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

and adult players competing against and with each other. We are pleased with how the program is growing and drawing interest, not just from Saipan players, but also from Tinian," said NMBA vice president Nate Guerrero, who is teaming up with youth player and Saipan International School student Lina Tsukagoshi in the mixed open doubles.

Tolentino added that young players will be gaining valuable experience playing with and against adults and also have the opportunity to challenge Guam and Tinian players.

She expects the level of play in the U15 and U19 divisions to be a notch higher as evident in the close games in the recently concluded TakeCare Interscholastic Badminton League High School Division.

"The growth of our program

were made possible by the support from our stakeholders and the availability of equipment and venues for our competitions," said Tolentino, who thanked Tan Holdings for sponsoring NMBA's first event of the 2023 season, Badminton Oceania and Badminton World for the technical support, the CNMI Public School System, the Northern Marianas Sports Association, and the Tinian and Guam players for traveling and committing to the competition.

Last night's matches started at 6pm., while Friday's games will begin as early as 4pm, with the opening ceremony slated for 5:30pm. Saturday and Sunday matches will kick off at 8:30pm with the awards ceremony scheduled for 7:30pm on Sunday. (PR)



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# Saipan Tribune Sports

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## NMIFA hosts Women's Football Day



By LEIGH GASES  
leigh\_gases@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Over 200 female football players participated in the Asian Football Confederation's Women's Football Day celebration hosted by Northern Mariana Islands Football Association at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville last Sunday.

Throughout the event, a 3v3 Women's Single Elimination Tournament was played from 4pm to 7pm. with the top teams crowned as champions.

Kanoa Team 1 bagged the championship trophy in the Premier Open division, besting five other teams. They beat sister Team 3, 3-1.

In Intermediate B aged 30

-and-over, Paire Team 2 won gold out of 13 other teams. In the finals, they beat Kanoa Team 4, 2-0.

The Shirley's Football Club Gold-en PRIDE Shrimp team are the champions of the Intermediate A aged 16-29 group out of 14 teams. They bested sister team SFC PRIDE Pork Crispy Pata, 4-2.

See NMIFA on **Page 26**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Over 200 women football players, coaches, and officials came out to celebrate Asian Football Confederation's Women's Football Day hosted by Northern Mariana Islands Football Association last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

## New Chang Ming outlasts Puerto Rico Bento

By MARK RABAGO  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

New Chang Ming Market defeated the erstwhile unbeaten Puerto Rico Bento in the open division of the 2nd Annual Saipan Centennial Lions Club Basketball League last Wednesday at the Civic Center Basketball Court in Susupe.

Coach Dennis Cortez and company took Puerto Rico Bento's lunch money in their 84-78 win that allowed New Chang Ming Market to catch their opponent in the standings at 2-1.

The game was competitive from the opening tip with New Chang Ming Market taking a 29-22 spread in the first quarter before Puerto Rico Bento sizzled in the second and rallied to just a 41-44 deficit at the half.

Thanks to Jack Aranda and Gerald Flores teaming up in the third, New Chang Ming Market was able to increase their lead, 71-63, heading into the fourth and final quarter.

Shane Deleon Guerrero then was as sweet as sugar on his offensive moves in the fourth, dropping 6 of his team-high



MARK RABAGO

New Chang Ming Market's Shane Deleon Guerrero drives baseline in their open division game against Puerto Rico Bento in the 2nd Annual Saipan Centennial Lions Club Basketball League last Wednesday at the Civic Center Basketball Court in Susupe.

21 points to tow New Chang Ming Market to victory.

Aranda and Jeffrey Castro back-stopped Deleon Guerrero with 19 and 11 points, respectively. The orange-clad Puerto Rico Bento was paced by the game-high 29 markers

of Coby Santos, while John Bayking added 21 in the loss.

In the earlier game, Pelisamen brothers Freddie and Ben continued their scoring spree, combining for 51 points to lead O'Aces to a 106-74 win over winless RNV Construc-

tion in the masters division.

It was win No. 2 against no loss for Ol'Aces, while RNV Construction, which was led by the 25 markers of Ronald Rueda, absorbed its second

loss in as many games.

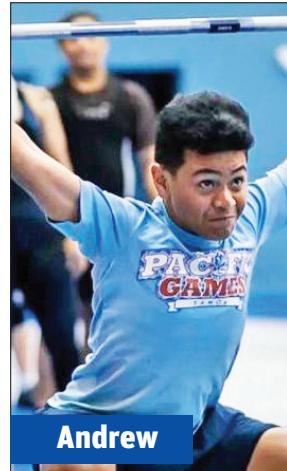
Last Monday, Socho Team eked out a 62-61 over Lakay for its first win in the open division, while Lakay dropped to 1-2. The second game in the same age group then saw Martech Ol'Aces improved to 2-0 following a 86-64 win over

K2 Ballerz, which lost for the first time in second games.

Tuesday then saw JTM Saipan bludgeon Checkpoint International, 89-64, to raise its record to 2-1, while keeping their opponents winless in two tries. The other open division

See NEW on **Page 26**

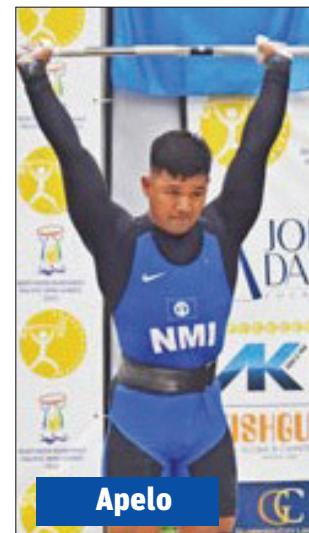
## NMSA names first awardees for 2023



Andrew



Tan



Apelo

The Northern Marianas Sports Association has announced the first recipients of the monthly awards for athletes for 2023 with three individuals making it to the honor roll.

Young weightlifter Jaden Andrew led the list of the February awardees after

### ATHLETES of the MONTH

his impressive debut in the Guam National Youth/Junior/Senior Championships held at the Guam Army National Guard Readiness Center in Barrigada last Feb. 25. Andrew is awarded the Crown Plaza Resort Saipan-NMSA Male Student Athlete of the Month

(for February) following his runner-up finish in the 55-kg division of the competition, outclassing several lifters who are twice his age. The 14-year-old and newcomer in the sport had a best snatch of 62 kg and 82 kg in the clean & jerk for a total of 144 kg.

Another participant in See NMSA on **Page 26**